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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH 2016

AN OXFORD STUDENT PRAISES HIS TEACHER
PAGE 5

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DOES GARETH RATE X-MEN APOCALYPSE?
PAGE 21

The run-down Lookout Tower near Porthcawl Harbour has been restored to its former glory, and volunteers are now scanning the horizon, playing their part in keeping the coastline safe. (See page 8 for the full story.)

WINDFARM DIVIDEND HELPS SCHOOL WITH COMMUNITY PROJECTS

New 'hub' has given Gilfach Goch pupils a brand new library

TWO community projects on Gilfach Goch are moving ahead after a donation from a company that operates two nearby windfarms.

The renewable energy company, Pennant Walters, has given £15,000 to Abercerdin Primary School to develop a community hub and a farm school.

The hub will include a library, and other resources for local families. Pennant Walters provided the funding as part of its policy of ensuring local communities benefit from its investments

With the nearest free library some distance away, headteacher Helen Gentle wanted pupils and their families to have easier access to resources.

She said: "We are a school that is in an economically deprived area and to not have easy access to free books is senseless.

"We approached Pennant Walters with the ideas of a community hub and a farmland area and were absolutely delighted to learn that we had been successful in our funding application."

The school set about making links with a local carpenter who has spent time transforming the assembly and dining hall into the community hub.

The hub now houses a wealth of books for pupils and the community, as well as the latest technology to improve learning.

The farm area, which is operated on a 90-metre stretch of land, is now fenced in and hosts a number of animals including chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs.

Helen continued: "Operating as a farm school will help us deliver a range of school and community activity and increase participation in land-based higher education.

"We are absolutely thrilled that Pennant Walters has allowed these community projects to come to fruition."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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Choir launches Maesteg Festival

Treorchy Choir, Mayor of Maesteg, accompanist Helen Roberts and Ryan Wood.

PHOTOS by SCENIC GALLERY

THE first event of the Maesteg Festival was held on Friday in Maesteg Town Hall.

'An Evening with the Treorchy Male Choir' was compered by Dean Powell and featured soloist Sally Kingsbury.

Soloist Sally Kingsbury.

U3A looks back on a busy year

AT Bridgend U3A's AGM, the chairman Mrs Janet Davies welcomed members and said she was pleased to say we had a steady membership.

She hoped they had enjoyed the talks, coach trips, BBC tour, garden party, the drama group's murder mystery evening, lunch at The Clink, and also the twice yearly magazines.

A new group, 'Ukeley', was introduced last year and has proved popular and U3A are hoping to start two more groups shortly.

The chairman then reminded members that the U3A is about learning, to keep our minds working.

She thanked everyone involved for their hard work during the year.

Afterwards, the meeting was entertained by the drama group's rendition of *'The Vicar of Dibley'*.

New committee takes over at Southerndown WI

THE MAY meeting of Southerndown WI was the annual meeting. The president, Michele, and vice-president Rhiannon updated everyone on current activities before the reports for the past 12 months were presented. They showed that we had had a busy and successful year.

Michele then welcomed the WI Adviser, Sylvia Tittley, to the meeting before the committee stood down from their positions.

Sylvia then took over the proceedings and commented on what a friendly and active group we are. She then invited members to join a new committee.

We are delighted that Michele retained the role of president, Jenny accepted the role of treasurer, and Sheila became vice-president.

Three new members, Lyn, Lynne and Elaine joined the committee and we are confident that Southerndown WI is in safe hands for the next year and we look forward to a full programme of activities.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 9 at 7.15pm in St Brides Major Church Hall on Southerndown Road, when the speaker will be talking about local history.

Why not join us?

PAMELA MOSS

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

'Crucial Crew' life lessons for pupils

Pupils were able to learn about responsible dog ownership with The Dogs Trust.

MORE than 1,400 primary school pupils from across Bridgend county borough have been taught life lessons at 'Crucial Crew' workshops held in Bettws Community Club.

Organised by BCBC in partnership with Resolve It and other local organisations, the sessions have covered important topics such as road safety, bullying, personal safety and awareness, the dangers of power lines and tips on responsible dog ownership.

The final sessions have been taking place this week. Coun Huw David, BCBC's Deputy Leader, said: "The annual Crucial Crew initiative is aimed at year-six pupils to help prepare them for new experiences as they grow older in the big wide world.

"These 10 and 11-year-olds will be moving up to secondary school in September, so it's a vulnerable age when they are starting to become a bit more independent. It is therefore important to educate them on the dangers and temptations that surround them and the impact that such things can have on their lives and the lives of others.

"The Crucial Crew sessions have helped the children become a bit more street-wise and understand how to deal with a number of potentially unsafe situations.

"For example, the session with Western Power taught them about the dangers around electricity, a road safety presentation re-iterated the importance of wearing a helmet when cycling, while they also learnt how to deal with conflict. The presentations were all extremely informative and are vital lessons for the children to learn."

Organisations making presentations at this year's Crucial Crew workshops included Western Power, Network Rail, Food Standards Agency, RNLI, SeaQuest, WCADA Alcohol, Resolve It, Dogs Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Who wants to build what and where?

Coity Higher Community Council – **Coity Primary School, Ffordd yr Hebog, Parc Derwen, Coity** – Noticeboard to display community council notices and school notices.

Maes yr Haul Primary School – **Fford Tirion, Broadlands, Bridgend** – Erection of flagpole.

Mr Shayban Al-Ibrahim – **Unit 2, Maesteg Road, Tondu** – One fascia sign and one projecting sign.

Hafod Housing Association – Lon Heulog, Brynmenyn – Ash (T1), strip ivy and remove suckers from epicormic shoots; Oak (T2) remove tree crown from stem.

Mr Gary Birchall – **43 Newcastle Hill, Bridgend** – Double glazing to front and rear, and new front door to front of property (Article 4 direction).

Mr P Howells – **12 Tythegston Close, Porthcawl** – Proposed single and two storey extension.

Mrs H Morgan – **15 Candlestone Newydd, Broadlands** – Approval of details for condition 5 of P/15/723/FUL.

Persimmon Homes West Wales – **Plots 95-101, Land a Ty Draw Farm, Pyle** – Replan of Plots 95-101 of P/15/135/FUL (for eight dwellings).

Mr Anthony Thorne – **Church View, Victoria Buildings, Coytrahen** – Widening of existing driveway and drop kerb.

Llangeinor Community Gardens – **Former swimming pool, Llangeinor Fields, Llangeinor** – Renew expired approval P/10./577/FUL for storage.

Mr Tony Kostic – **East of Cefn Cribbwr Garage, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr** – Extension to Cefn Cribwr Garage's existing hard surface parking area.

Mr Stewart Hever – **1 The Crescent, Aberkenfig** – Proposed new garage to replace existing.

James Quantick – **Buccaneer Bar, Mackworth Road Porthcawl** – Siting of a juvenile amusement ride.

Mr Malcolm Courtier – **120 Fulmar Road, Porthcawl** – Drop kerb of the driveway.

Mr Gareth Roberts – **Former Post Office, 13 Penybont Road, Pencoed** – Change of use from vacant ground floor A1 (shop) to Class A3 (restaurant) with external alts and extraction system.

Robert Hitchins Ltd – **Land at Central Park off Western Avenue, Bridgend Industrial Estate** – New unit for B1, B2 and B8 use in combination or separately.

Mr Philip Foster – **Unit 2 Eastern Business Park, Bennett Street (former Harman, Bridgend Industrial Estate)** – Vary condition 3 of P/15/708/FUL to extend opening hours of gym/reception/showers to 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anchormill Ltd – **Plot 50, Phase 4, Dyffryn Oaks off Hendre Road, Pencoed** – Amendments to plot including garage location, raise ground floor slab level, changes to plans and elevations. Non material amendment to P/09/418/RES to change level of the ground floor slab on Plot 51.

Merthyr Mawr Estate – **Land west of Maesteg Road, Tondu** – 450 dwellings, 1,000 sq m class B1 use, highways works, public open space, affecting Newcastle Higher footpaths.

Trustees of Gilgal Baptist Church – **Gilgal Baptist Church, Park Avenue, Porthcawl** – New link extension between the church and adjacent hall and rear extension for WC, kitchen and ancillary accommodation.

Mr P Phillips – **Land adjacent 38 Garn Road, Maesteg** – Replace two single garages with one double garage.

Welsh Religious Buildings Trust – **Bethania Chapel, Bethania Street, Maesteg** – Renewal/replacement of external features to chapel and replace two chimney stacks to Sunday School building.

Mrs Mary Smart – **4 West Road, Nottage** – Single storey flat roof kitchen extension.

TBD (UK) Ltd – **Waterton House, Brocastle Avenue, Waterton Industrial Estate** – Remove condition 9 of consent P/09/937/FUL (operating hours of the site).

Mr Andrew Pearce – **6 Swn yr Adar, Penyfai** – Single storey extension to side and decking area to side.

Mr Darren Hek – **Plas Hyfryd, 109 Park Street, Bridgend** – Change use of garage to an appointment only salon with alterations to elevations.

Bridgend Storewithus Ltd – **Land off Parc Crescent, Waterton Industrial Estate** – Change use to caravan storage compound including security fencing, stone surfacing, lighting, access road and office building.

HD Ltd – **London House, 32-34 Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Replacement shop front.

Mr John James – **6 Brynffrwd Close, Coychurch** – Single storey extension to front and single storey extension to existing garage.

Mr Rhys Garfield – **Cynhordy Farm, Bryn Terrace, Lletty Brongu, Maesteg** – Agricultural building to store farming equipment and animal feed.

Mrs Angela Owen – **9 Ffordd Candleston, Broadlands** – Remove garage door and replace with window.

BCBC – **Land rear 297-311 Erw Hir, Brackla** – Park and ride to include access and pedestrian footbridge.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	09.54	9.1	22.14	9.0
27 Fri	10.37	8.8	22.59	8.7
28 Sat	11.23	8.5	23.52	8.4
29 Sun			12.22	8.3
30 Mon	00.57	8.2	13.21	8.0
31 Tues	02.04	8.3	14.37	8.4
01 Wed	03.09	8.6	15.54	8.7
02 Thur	04.18	9.0	16.57	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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The crafty ladies who are helping put the dementia patients at ease

The Bryn ladies with a selection of their donations.

HOSPITAL staff at Maesteg have thanked a group of local ladies for helping to put dementia patients at ease.

Members of the Bryn Homecrafts group have been making and donating twiddle quilts and muffs to Llynfi Ward at Maesteg Community Hospital.

The 20-bed ward provides care for elderly patients, including some with dementia.

The fidget quilts and muffs have different textures, buttons, ribbons, and other features.

They are used extensively around the UK, including ABMU hospitals, as they can help reduce anxiety in dementia patients.

This in turn makes providing care much easier for hospital staff.

Llynfi Ward occupational therapy technician Diann Richards said: "After completing dementia training I did some research into fidget quilts and asked around to see if anyone could make them for us.

"Initially, talented families of staff members made and donated some to the ward. Then I was told about the Bryn Homecrafts group.

"They're lovely ladies, who come together every week and want to do something for the community. I went to meet them last year to talk about the quilts and show ones that have already been made.

"Since then, they have kindly been making crocheted and fabric quilts and muffs to help calm distressed patients."

This support means patients can have individual quilts personal to them, which they can take with them when they leave the ward. The Bryn ladies have also included designs suitable for male patients.

Diann said: "Our ward sister, nursing and therapy staff would like to thank the ladies for their wonderful support and generosity."

PUPILS HEAR THE TALE OF THE CRUNCHY MUNCHY CATERPILLAR

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited Bryntirion Infants School last week to take part in their Friday morning Reading Café, reading *The Crunchy Munchy Caterpillar* by Sheridan Cain.

She reported: "One of the great privileges of being an MP is being asked to take part in infant and junior schools' reading cafes. I have a regular spot reading in Bryntirion Infants School.

"On Friday, I had great fun reading out the story and having parents, grandparents and children call out the sound effects from the story. Everyone especially enjoyed shouting "WOW", when the caterpillar became a butterfly.

"After hearing the story, parents and grandparents sat with the children, colouring and making butterflies, using the children's hands as wings.

"It was wonderful to hear how well parents spoke of the school and the way they felt part of the school family. A number of friendships between parents had developed thanks to the numerous social events parents were invited to at the school.

"Many had enjoyed attending the celebration for The Queen's birthday with Mrs Foster playing The Queen in a mask!

"Praise was given to Mrs Foster for the high level of personal support she gives to parents. One mother talked of Mrs Foster "always finding time to listen" and would even telephone the mum at home if she had heard she had called in to talk to her about a problem with her child.

"The school was described as warm and welcoming towards families and that helped make children feel confident in transitioning between home and school."

GEM reader says: *'Decision on Cefn Cribwr opencast makes a joke of the planning system'*

IS there anybody there – representing Bridgend in the Welsh Assembly, I mean?

Petitions totalling 2,000 signatures, asking the Welsh Government to secure the promised, full, restoration of the opencast site north of Cefn Cribwr, objecting to the so-called alternative 'restoration' plans and supporting a call in request, were delivered to representatives of First Minister Carwyn Jones at the Senedd in Cardiff on April 26; and at his Bridgend office on April 27 – copies also went to Bridgend CBC planning department on the same day.

The First Minister was the only Assembly representative in office while it was dissolved prior to the election. The majority of the signatures came from residents of the streets surrounding the site, though people from the wider area also signed the online petition.

Despite this, there has not as yet been a response from Mr Jones.

On May 18, the day Mr Jones was re-elected First Minister, I had an email from a Welsh Government planner telling me that the plans would not be called in, for reasons which I find totally unacceptable.

Similarly, last November I had a letter from the same civil servant telling me that the Welsh Government would not enforce the restoration of the site on the company – again an unacceptable response since the Government can take action in exceptional circumstances.

I am sure that everyone around here feels that a site still awaiting restoration eight years after the end of coaling is exceptional.

A site that under the alternative plans, consented to, under duress on May 3 and May 4, by both NPTCBC and BCBC, will be left with a dangerous flooded hole over 108 metres deep and land heaped with towering tips, barren and moon-scaped.

In effect, the Government has had since 2013 to take action on this site since it could see that the local authorities were floundering and failing in their responsibilities to achieve the promised restoration.

In turning its back on its constituents in Bridgend and Port Talbot who live adjacent to the site, in allowing agreed planning conditions specifically requiring the full restoration to be overturned, the Welsh Government makes a joke of the planning system.

It leaves an area ravaged, not enhanced, and hazardous where there was no such danger.

Sadly, no one here is laughing.

Jan Adamson,
Kenfig Hill.

Pioneering high-tech 'frostbite op' takes away Marc's scars

A HIGH-TECH form of frostbite to remove abnormal scars is being pioneered in Wales at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

Called Cryoshape, the procedure involves pumping liquid nitrogen through a special needle inserted into the scar.

It originated in Scandinavia and takes around an hour to complete.

One of the first patients in Wales to benefit from the procedure is 43-year-old dad Marc Jenkins.

For the last 15 years Marc, from Pyle, has had abnormal scarring in his left earlobe, which was pierced when he was a youngster.

It did not respond to treatment, including several operations, but following Cryoshape has now completely vanished.

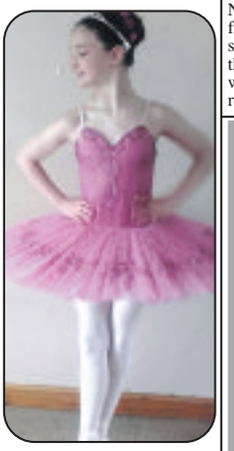
Marc said: "It's brilliant – you can't see anything."

The procedure is carried out in Neath Port Talbot Hospital's outpatients department by consultant plastic surgeon and laser specialist Max Murison.

ABOVE: Marc's ear before, and four months after the procedure.

Marc is pictured with Mr Murison (left). The scar on Marc's left earlobe is now unnoticeable.

Bridgend's Keira (11) to guest in Sleeping Beauty



KEIRA Lauren Durston, who is representing Wales in the Dance World Cup, has been offered a place in the English Youth Ballet's professional production of *The Sleeping Beauty* at the New Theatre, Cardiff in August.

Keira recently auditioned and gained a part as a guest, dancing in all four acts completely *en pointe*. Keira has only owned her first pair of pointe shoes since February, so she is so excited to have achieved so much.

Aged 11, she attends Llangewydd Junior School, loves ballet, and is inspired by professional ballerinas such as Darcey Bussell.

She has danced and performed since she was three and trains at Megan's Academy of Dance, Caroline Brown School of Dance, and Stagecoach.

Keira also travels to Liverpool every Sunday to train at Jelli Studios.

She will be performing a solo at the Dance World Cup, and has had her lucky first pair of pointe shoes signed by Abby Lee Miller and Jennifer Ellison, two of her biggest dance idols.

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World famous pianists put on show at primary school

Renowned pianists Mariko Brown and Professor Julian Jacobson with pupils from Abercerdin Primary School and Iqubal Latif.

Pupils watch on as Professor Julian Jacobson and Mariko rown play.

IT'S not every day that a grand piano gets delivered to your school, or that two world-renowned pianists put on a concert for you!

But that's exactly what happened at Abercerdin Primary School, near Gilfach Goch.

Professor Julian Jacobson and Mariko Brown are more used to performing in the surroundings of Berlin, Prague and London, but the duo gave the pupils a once in a lifetime experience by swapping the Royal Albert Hall for Abercerdin's school hall.

They started with Bach, before moving on to Beethoven and continuing with a harmonic masterclass of history's finest composers.

Abercerdin headteacher Helen Gentle said: "We worked extremely hard to organise this concert, which has been made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of Iqbal Latif, a hotelier from London who has known Professor Jacobson for many years.

"To host a classical concert of this nature at our school is a huge privilege, and the children gasped when they first saw the grand piano!

"The area in which the school is based is recognised as having some of the highest levels of poverty in Wales, but we constantly strive to offer unique opportunities for the whole community that raise aspirations. It was a magical afternoon and something that we will remember forever."

Mr Latif met a group of the school's senior staff when they attended a course at his luxury five-star Hotel Rafayel in London.

He said: "We talked about the school and I thought that the children would love to hear this music. I hope that they will never forget the experience of seeing two world class musicians perform in their school."

Professor Julian Jacobson and Mariko Brown performed a classical concert in Abercerin Primary School.

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Nora 'picks up the baton' again for WI

ON Thursday, May 12, President Nora Williams welcomed members to one of the most important meetings of the year.

During the usual business section, Nora reported that the 50th anniversary supper at the Hi-Tide had been one of the highlights of the year.

All members who had attended agreed that this had possibly been one of the most enjoyable events that Sker WI had been part of.

This was followed by an excellent report presented by Irene Boyles on the recent Annual Council Meeting.

Irene helped people to feel very much as if they were sharing the experience through her animated and descriptive report of the events of the day.

Business continued with more information about a planned trip to Abbey Cwm Hir on June 29, an appeal being launched to help save Denman College and a request for members to man Sker WI toiletries stall at St David's Church Summer Fete on Saturday June 11.

Of course the main business of the evening was to review the past 12 months and to elect the President and Committee for 2016-17.

Ann Davies, WI Agent and newly appointed GFWI chairman, was officiating at the AGM.

After listening to excellent reports from the president, secretary and treasurer, Ann congratulated Sker WI on being such a happy and successful WI.

She then announced that all committee members had stood down as per protocol, and asked members to vote for a President. After the secret ballot, three people had been short-listed but it was Nora Williams who once again has picked up the baton and will lead her committee in the task of maintaining Sker WI as the happy and successful WI that our honourable visitor had said we are.

After refreshments had been served, the raffle was drawn and this month's completion results announced.

The topic this month was something interesting in gingham. First place went to Margaret Owen, in second place was Audrey Evans and in third place was Christine Beynon.

After a heartfelt vote of thanks to Nora and the committee given by Greta Owens, the meeting ended with members heading for home happy in the prospect of another 50 happy years as part of a busy and successful Sker WI.

Visitors are always welcome, so why don't you come along and say hello – 7pm, second Thursday of the month, St David's Church Hall, Nottage Village!

Christine Beynon

READERS' LETTERS

'Better out than in!'

ANOTHER propaganda leaflet dropped on my doormat today.

I am sick and tired of all this talk of 'facts' about what will happen if we leave the EU: nothing – repeat nothing – is a fact until it has actually happened!

It is all guesswork until then. All we can say is what may happen if we come out.

But if we stay in, one thing is certain and that is that the EU will not stay the same, it can only get worse. They don't want to be reformed, they want ever-closer union and a complete federal United States of Europe.

I would have thought young people would want to vote out! Arent the young supposed to be anti-establishment? Don't they all want excitement, rather than mundane same-old same-old?

And what is more exciting than coming out of a stranglehold and starting afresh on our own!

A Turner, Bridgend.

Gran is so proud of Katie

IT was such a pleasure to see so many young people rewarded for their contributions to the community in the High Sheriff's community awards.

However, I was very disappointed that there was no mention of the award that Katie Rivers received.

As her very proud grandmother, I felt I had to write to tell you that Katie, who attends Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, was awarded the highest honour; she came top for her outstanding volunteering in the community plus mentoring in school.

She was presented with a silver Cup, certificate and a cheque for £1,000.

Not only does she volunteer in this country, but in the summer she is volunteering in Jamaica with the Methodist Synod Cymru.

Katie is a remarkable person who is working hard for her A-levels, as she has had an offer for Oxford to read law. The day she was presented with her award was also her 18th birthday.

Mrs Carol Edmunds, Hirwaun.

Learn new skills this half term at Nolton Church

BRIDGEND Communities First is laying on what's billed as a 'family fun event' on June 1.

Activities during the event at Nolton Church between 1pm and 3pm include interactive games to help you and your family gain new skills, kangoo jumping and family dancing sessions.

There will be information about Welsh classes for adults and families and have-a-go computer programming for all the family with Cool Kids Computing.

Admission is free to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas. To find out more, call 01656 643514, or if you want sessions delivered in Welsh.

Oxford student pays tribute to an 'inspirational' teacher

BRYNTIRION Comprehensive School's head of sixth form, Jamie Beard, has been heralded as "one of the most inspirational teachers in the UK" by Oxford University.

Each year, the university rewards a select group of teachers from state schools and colleges who have played a key role in helping students gain a place to study at Oxford.

There were 10 recipients of this year's 'Inspirational Teacher' awards, with each winner having been put forward by one of their former pupils.

Jamie was nominated by former Bryntirion student Adib Tarafdar, who said: "At my school, I was the first ever student to even apply to study medicine at Oxford University, but when choosing my options, the school as a whole really supported me, and all my teachers were very proud of my decision – none more so than my biology teacher, Mr Beard.

"I found Mr Beard a constant source of encouragement, not only when applying through UCAS, but also throughout my entire time at the school. He recognised and supported my ability starting all the way back in year-10, when he first started teaching me. And throughout my time at the school, he has been as equally happy as me, if not happier, with my successes."

Bryntirion head of sixth form Jamie Beard being presented with his 'Inspirational Teacher' award from Oxford University's vice-chancellor, Professor Louise Richarson.
Photograph by Edmund Blok.

The first-year undergraduate added: "This award for Mr Beard truly means a lot to me – getting into Oxford is one of the best things that has ever happened to me, and it is nice to finally be able to give Mr Beard some well-deserved recognition for all the hard work he has put in: not just with me, but with all his present, past and future students too."

Jamie Beard, who was presented with his award at a special event held at St Peter's College, said: "I feel very honoured that the hard work of everyone in our school has been recognised by such a prestigious institution as Oxford University. We are so proud of Adib and his achievements and are so delighted to hear how well he is getting on.

"A truly talented individual, the very fact he thought and found the time at such as busy period to nominate myself just typifies his humble and dignified nature. As clichéd as it sounds, it is students like Adib that continue to inspire us as teachers and we wish him every success in what we are sure will be a very bright future."

Congratulating Jamie on his success, Coun Huw David, the Deputy Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), said: "Last August, Bryntirion Comprehensive School celebrated record A-Level results, and Adib was one of the many exceptional pupils from that year group who excelled.

"Everyone remembers an excellent teacher, and it is wonderful to hear that Mr Beard made such an impression on Adib. To have been chosen as one of only 10 teachers from across the UK to receive this award is an outstanding achievement and I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr Beard."

Dr Samina Khan, director of undergraduate admissions at Oxford, said: "The Inspirational Teachers Awards are a way of recognising the importance of school or college teachers in encouraging bright students to realise their potential and make a successful application to Oxford, especially those who might not have initially believed they were Oxford material.

"This is particularly true for teachers who champion students who might be the only ones in their year – or even their school's history – with the academic ability and drive.

"Winning a place at Oxford takes hard work and dedication, and having the support of a committed teacher is for many students what makes the difference."

Jamie Beard with student Adib Tarafdar.
Photograph by Edmund Blok.

Floral society's next meeting

THE Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society next meets at Awel-y-Mor Centre on Wednesday, June 8, at 7.30pm.

There will be a flower demonstration by Sharon Dower, entitled, 'In the Mood -------'. Doors open at 6.30pm and everyone is welcome.

A club spokeswoman said: "We recently received the sad news that Dwynwen Jones, the club president, passed away recently.

"She had been ill for some time, an illness she bore with a great deal of courage. She will be sadly missed by us all."

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'Speak up on town pedestrianisation'

THE publication this week of a long-awaited report into reversing pedestrianisation in parts of Bridgend town centre has been welcomed by a regional AM.

Suzy Davies urged council leaders to "get out of their bubble at the civic offices and take decisive action before it is too late to save the town."

The recently-returned Welsh Conservative AM for South Wales West, launched a campaign with traders last year calling for the lower end of the town centre to be opened up to traffic. A petition backing this was signed by 1,300 people.

She questioned the "haphazard" way in which the report has been released: "My office contacted council Chief Executive Darren Mepham in March to find out what was happening to the report prepared in January. I had no reply before the Assembly was dissolved in April.

"When the office was up and running again after the election, I contacted the Chief Executive again because I was hearing rumours from some traders that the report was ready but that only Labour councillors had been briefed on it, including Labour town councillors but not others.

"I was, therefore, surprised to hear from Mr Mepham that he had not seen the report himself, but then I was told that it was ready and it was forwarded to me and other AMs.

"No explanation for the delay has been given, which is very disappointing considering our campaign and the formal referral by the town council."

She went on: "The council intends to hold a public consultation about the four options within the report about how Queen Street, Dunraven Place and Market Street can be safely re-opened to traffic. But this cannot be a tick-box exercise.

"A number of different proposals are being considered, some of which I suspect will not satisfy traders. At the moment, the assertion is that totally reversing the pedestrianisation would cost £800,000, although I'm not clear yet how that figure has been reached. Assumptions are made in reports like this and may need to be challenged.

"I would urge everyone who uses Bridgend town centre to make their views known. People now have the chance to get pedestrianisation scrapped in this part of Bridgend and to breathe new life back into the town centre."

Pupils practise their sales pitch

A FORMER star of TV's *The Apprentice* has been helping budding entrepreneurs from St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Bridgend to brush up on their sales pitches.

Pupils who attend the school's Young Dragons business club picked up tips from Adam Corbally, a former market stallholder who shone in Lord Sugar's boardroom in 2012, when they attended a special enterprise event last week in Swansea Market.

Run by Swansea University's Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership, the 'Flash & Banter' initiative saw children spend a day under the tutelage of Adam and other experts to learn some tricks of the market trade which will help prepare them for a forthcoming school project.

Each term, the St Mary's 'Young Dragons' learn about all aspects of business by having a go at creating new products, carrying out market research and calculating their costs and profit margins.

Teacher Lowri Pike, who runs the club, said: "This term, our pupils are creating a product called 'Bloom Bottles', which involves turning plastic bottles into decorations.

"Adam encouraged everyone to have a go at pitching and our pupils loved having a bit of 'banter' with the customers! The pupils learned a lot and are really excited about their Bloom Bottles which they will now be presenting to a panel of experts on Wednesday, June 15 when they'll be competing against five other schools to try and win a day's trading in Swansea Market."

The 'Flash & Banter' event coincided with Love Your Local Market Fortnight (May 17 – 31), which encourages people across the UK to support their local markets and also consider whether a market stall would be ideal for their business.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School pupils taking a selfie with Apprentice star Adam Corbally at the 'Flash & Banter' enterprise event last week in Swansea market.

New website is a family affair!

A NEW business aiming to build a 'local deals' website in the area is very much a family affair

Called 'Got Just The Deal', it supports local businesses in Bridgend county and aims to help increase sales and foot-fall to local independent businesses and retailers.

The family affair connection is because it has been started by two friends, Sharon Crews and Lucy Ann Jones, their children and partners, giving their time on a voluntary basis as the business develops.

Sharon and Lucy became close friends after being introduced by their respective partners two years ago.

Sharon and Lucy's children, Harvey, Amy and Katie and their ever supportive partners Owen and Darren, all helped and supported at the launch. the family has believed in this idea from the outset.

A spokesperson said: "The passion behind this venture is to embrace the local business community, by highlighting all the very best things to do, see and experience right here in Bridgend county.

"The response from businesses in Maesteg, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Brackla, Pyle, Aberkenfig, Kenfig Hill and surrounding areas has been particularly warm and welcoming, with much interest and support.

"The motivation behind this business is to sustain interest in our local businesses by encouraging people to enjoy what is available locally on the high street.

"In a nutshell, Got Just The Deal is a platform to showcase deals from local businesses to local people, with the intention of 'keeping it local'."

ABOVE: Left to right, Katie, Lucy Ann Jones, Harvey, Sharon Crews and Amy

PACT meetings

BRYNCETHIN PACT on Wednesday, June 1 at Nazareth Chapel, 6pm.

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT on Monday, June 6 at Sarn Life Centre, 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on Wednesday, June 8 at the Richard Price Centre, 5.30pm.

BLACKMILL PACT on Tuesday, June 14 at Blackmill Community Centre, 6pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT on Monday, June 20 at Halo Leisure Centre, Pontycymer, 5.30pm.

MAESTEG PACT on Monday, June 20 at Cwm Calon Day Centre, 6pm.

ABERKENFIG/PENYFAI PACT on Monday, June 20 at Smyrna Chapel, 7pm.

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Tondu artists in the Bay

THE Tondu and District Art Society was formed by four amateur artists in 1981; it is now a thriving society of 55 members and has a waiting list.

The society provides a space for like-minded art lovers to meet and 'do their own thing'; painting, drawing and the like, and has a loyal membership.

It meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig and has been invited to hold an exhibition of paintings at the Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay from June 20 – 26 from 11am to 4pm daily.

Hospital fete

THE 54th annual Maesteg Hospital fete will take place in Maesteg Market Square on Saturday, June, 18 from 9.30am to 4pm.

There will be something for all the family to enjoy, including lots of interesting stalls, a cider tent, and games galore for the children.

From 12 o'clock 'Daley Bee' will be on stage with his unique blend of fun, games, magic show and prizes. The 'Contagious' dance crew will be entertaining from around 2.30pm.

There will be food stalls with freshly cooked Welsh cakes, burgers, wraps and lots more. Make a mask and enter the competition to win a prize. Visit the famous tea stall for a cuppa and a cake. Everyone will be welcome.

Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes

THERE were 502 members from 85 different Institutes in attendance at Federation council meeting in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot on May 10.

Among them were seven members from the Aberkenfig and District Women's Institute.

The meeting was opened by Carolyn Davies, Glamorgan Federation chair who welcomed the members and introduced the Board of Trustees.

The first speaker, Daphne Furneaux, was introduced. Daphne is a very talented flower arranger, she built two beautiful arrangements in front of the audience and produced three more she had prepared earlier; these were raffle prizes later in the meeting, though how they got these beautiful but very tall arrangements home is a mystery.

Emma Leeke, managing director of Leekes stores was introduced as the next speaker. Leekes is a very old family business first established in 1880 as a small ironmongery business in the front room of a very small house belonging to James Leeke, a blacksmith by trade.

It has remained a family business and has grown progressively over the years to the present day when they now have stores and hotels in England as well as Wales. Emma was a very good speaker and was followed by the committee business.

After lunch, Carolyn introduced John Benjamin of *Antiques Roadshow* fame. John was a very animated speaker.

He spoke of his early years in learning his trade and how he rose to his current place in the world of jewels.

He is now considered one of the best 'fine jewellery specialists in the world' and is also a Freeman of Goldsmiths.

John showed slides of famous women, past and present, wearing beautiful jewels in amazing designs. He answered questions from the members, some of which caused a lot of laughter. Thanks to the speaker were given by Carolyn, the anthems were sung and everyone was wished a safe journey home.

The next meeting of Aberkenfig & District WI will be at 2pm on June 8, the Institute's 35th birthday meeting.

Visitors and new members are always made very welcome at monthly meetings, which are at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

There is always a speaker, a cup of tea and a chance to make new friends or revive old friendships. For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399.

Volunteers needed

AT Tynyrheol primary school, Llangeinor during the week beginning May 23, the school will be organising a range of activities that focus on healthy living and eco issues.

This term they are focusing on developing the school's outdoor environment and garden. The school has a lot of work that it wants done, amongst which are gardening, painting and general sorting and tidying.

Throughout the week the school will need volunteers to come into the grounds and help. Miss Pare and Mrs Bruce will have a list of jobs that need to be completed.

The school would really appreciate everyone's support and involvement in this. On the Friday, there will be a barbecue organised by the PTFA in the school yard.

Congratulations to the following pupils who gained star awards for their efforts last week.

Nursery: Jacob Barnes for a huge improvement in his behaviour.

Reception: Lacey Byrne for fantastic independent writing.

Year 1: Gwen Standing for excellent concentration, and Gwen Lewis for honesty.

Year 2: Levi McCormick for excellent concentration and perseverance during his test.

Year 3: Nia Lewis for always trying to be helpful.

Year 4: Logan McCormick for great work researching the oesophagus and presenting his findings.

Year 5: Brandon Riddiford for always behaving sensibly in class.

Year 6: Rhosyn Wong for great work in addition of decimals.

Voice for residents

YNYSAWDRE Elderly Residents Association acts as a voice for the people and meets in the village hall, Bryn Road, Ynysawdre on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.

Officially formed in 2009, the membership consists of mature people from a range of backgrounds and its primary intention is to focus on local issues which concern elderly residents.

Visitors will be made most welcome. If interested in obtaining more information, Mrs J Jones the secretary is on 01656 720830.

Skiffle in church

AS part of Kenfig Hill and Pyle Festival Week, St Theodore's church is hosting a concert featuring the Railroad Bill Skiffle Group.

The concert takes place on Thursday, June 16 at 7pm, tickets are £8 from Theo's charity shop, Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill or by telephone: 01656 665547 or 01656 741354.

The concert is organised as part of the Arts Council of Wales' 'Night Out' scheme with the support of Awen Cultural Trust.

Busy year at Laleston

THE annual meeting of Laleston WI was taken by vice-president Barbara Rees, who welcomed everyone including WI adviser Judith Lucas, new member Naomi Williams and a guest.

The resolutions for the NFWI annual meeting were discussed and voted for. Secretary Diane Marshall read out full details of Laleston WI's 2015 activities. Treasurer Margaret Williams gave out the financial statement and it was agreed 2015 had been a busy year celebrating the centenary of the WI.

Two new committee members, Betty Rastin and Diane Thomas, were welcomed. Secretary Diane Marshall and treasurer Margaret Williams were re-elected. Dawn Storie was elected as president. A huge thank-you was given to Margaret Aylen for her exceptional service as president, with best wishes for her recuperation.

Barbara Rees was highly praised for standing in for Margaret. All members of the committee were thanked for their hard work. Well done ladies, just what the WI is all about.

Details were given to members of future fundraising activities and exciting trips, including a trip to Picton Castle and Carmarthen.

The next luncheon club will be June 7, venue to be announced.

The monthly book club is on June14 at Bridgend Library. The evening's raffle was won by Maureen Morgan.

The next meeting will be on June 2 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). The guest speaker will be Philip Davies: 'A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Theatre'; the competition is 'a theatre programme'.

New members are always welcome, why not come and join us? For further information call Diane on 01656 656600.

Railway enthusiasts

THERE is an opportunity for children (and of course their parents) to get close to steam and diesel engines at Pontycymmer railway sheds, Ffaldau Square, CF32 8AZ.

There will be a number of stalls as well, set up by local trades and industry. Everyone can take advantage of a ride on the ten-inch mini train.

This event takes place on Monday, May 30. Garw Valley Railway can be found on Facebook.

Aberkenfig & District WI

EUNICE Williams, president welcomed the members and Judith Lucas, WI adviser, to the annual meeting on May 11.

Happy Birthday was sung to Sondra Parry, the only May birthday girl, although she was not able to attend the meeting.

On June 8, there is a day course for presidents, secretaries and any member who feels an informal public speaking course at Federation House would help in everyday life.

There will be a midsummer dinner and musical evening with Mark Evans as soloist, on June 28 in The Orangery, Margam Park, and the Glamorgan Show is in Cornelly Community Centre on July 22 – 23.

Dorothy Thomas then gave the financial statement, which was uplifting.

Judith Lucas congratulated Aberkenfig WI for the good recovery made since the threat of closing two years ago.

The nominations for the committee posts were voted on.

There will be no change in the line-up: Eunice Williams stays as president, Dorothy Thomas will remain as treasurer and Dilys Mitchell is still secretary and Dee Melton was welcomed on to the committee, so we now have 10 committee members.

Pat Lewis and Gillian Williams won the raffle; the competition for a fancy button was won by Pat Lewis with a lovely bird shaped button.

The next meeting is on June 8 and is the Institute's 35th birthday. There is no speaker as once the business is finished the members like to party. The competition will be for a 'small ornament' and there will be a raffle.

Aberkenfig and District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month except August, at 2pm in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig. Visitors and new members are always made very welcome.

There is always a speaker or an event, a cup of tea and a chance to make new friends or revive old friendships.

For further information, call Dilys on 01656 725399, visit www.cobwebs.com, or www.facebook.com/Aberkenfigwomensinstitute.

Belly dancing

THIS is an opportunity for adults aged 18 and over to improve their posture and muscle tone and, of course, burn off excess calories.

It is free to all living in a Bridgend First area and takes place in Betws Life Centre Wednesdays, June 8 to July 13 from 6pm to 7pm. To reserve a place telephone Fay on 01656 815136.

Maesteg Gleemen male choir

THE oldest established choir in the Bridgend area is going on tour to perform in the Mussleborough Festival.

It will also perform in Carlisle. The trip is for five days, leaving Bridgend on July 25.

If there are supporters of choral music who enjoy the social and musical environment, and would like more information, telephone John Wines on 07816145385.

Tondu Primary School

MRS Susan Pilcher would like to invite all carers of pupils in Miss Davies' class Ogwr to share in the class assembly on Friday, May 26, at 10.20am.

They will be welcome to have a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee from 10am,

Pupils in year-5 and 6 enjoyed their trip to Newport to listen to a performance of the BBC Welsh National Orchestra on May 16.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

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The RNLI lifeguards take station at Rest Bay

RNLI lifeguards will take to their posts for the first time at Rest Bay on Saturday, May 28, as the charity continues to roll out a lifeguarding service on Porthcawl beaches.

Working in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council, RNLI lifeguards will be ready at their posts between 10am-6pm throughout the bank holiday weekend.

RNLI lifeguards will work alongside Porthcawl volunteer lifeboat crew and local surf lifesaving clubs to help provide a safety service on the popular beach.

Rest Bay is one of four Porthcawl beaches to offer an RNLI lifeguard service this summer. RNLI lifeguards have been patrolling Coney and Trecco Bay since April 30 and a safety service will launch on Pink Bay from early July.

Jacob Davies of the RNLI said: "The RNLI lifeguards have now all completed their training and are looking forward to opening the doors to the new unit at Rest Bay this weekend.

"We encourage those thinking of a trip to the coast over the summer months to always visit a lifeguarded beach and if you're heading into the sea please respect the water and swim between the red and yellow flags."

Last year, RNLI lifeguards assisted over 900 people on 32 of Wales' busiest beaches. This year, the charity has increased the safety patrols to 39 beaches across the Welsh coast.

For more tips on how to stay safe on the coast this summer, visit the RNLI website ***www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety*** *or download the charity's beach safety mobile app.*

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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VOLUNTEERS' VIGILANT EYES BACK ON THE LOOKOUT TOWER

ABOVE: John Williams, Jim Bevan and Lorrie Desmond-Williams on duty. (Photo by David Swidenbank)

ABOVE: Lesley Suddes, chair of the National Coastwatch Institution, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon, trainee watchkeeper John Buckley and Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones inside the restored Lookout Tower on Porthcawl seafront.

THE restoration of the old Pilot Lookout Tower on Porthcawl seafront is fully complete, with volunteers from the National Coastwatch Institution manning it for the first time last weekend.

After receiving fantastic support from the local community, a team of volunteers are on duty – initially on weekends only – to help spot danger so that amateur sailors and fishermen can stay safe.

Heritage Lottery Funding, together with contributions from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Cadw and the NCI have all helped to restore the 150-year-old building to its former glory through the Porthcawl Townscape Heritage Initiative.

The new station was officially opened last Friday by Bridgend AM Carwyn Jones and Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon. Coun Charles Smith, BCBC's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "It's wonderful to see this historic waterfront building brought back into use. From being in a dilapidated condition, it has been given replacement windows, doors and roofing, while the external staircase has also been renewed.

"Following its restoration, we were pleased to then transfer the building to the National Coastwatch Institution earlier this year, and their operations will make a substantial contribution in helping Porthcawl's coastline become even safer."

Station manager Phillip Jones said: "We are absolutely delighted to be fully operational and we hope to establish the station as an integral part of the search and rescue operations along the South Wales coast. We're conducting both offshore and onshore surveillance and we'll be reporting back to the Milford Haven Coastguard.

"Over the past few months, we've been training volunteers. The response has been wonderful and we even have a waiting list.

"If anyone else is interested, then we'd love to hear from them too, as although we are starting with a weekend watch only, our aim is to quickly expand so that we can have enough qualified watch-keepers to offer a service on every single day of the year

"So, if you'd like to find out more, please get in touch."

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer at the new Porthcawl watch station, should call 01656 769291. Further details about the National Coastwatch Institution can be found at ***www.nci.org.uk.***

AM Carwyn backs BID bid

BRIDGEND AM and First Minister, Carwyn Jones, has urged businesses in Bridgend town centre to vote in favour of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) for Bridgend when the ballot papers are issued within the next few months.

Following Bridgend County Borough Council's cabinet approval to move to the ballot stage, it will be the decision of business owners based within 20 of the town centre's streets to cast their votes on whether they want the BID for the town.

A number of BIDs have already been set up across Wales including in Newport, Neath, Llanelli, Caernarfon and Bangor, Aberystwyth, Pontypridd and Swansea. Swansea was the first BID in Wales and the 29th in the UK in 2006.

The Welsh Government has supported the setting up of BIDs in a number of towns across Wales. Bridgend is the last of the Welsh Government supported towns to go to ballot.

Given that a BID is business led and funded by business through a BID levy, it must carry a broad base of support, with a majority of businesses supporting it; more than 50 per cent of votes cast must be in favour of the BID.

Also, a 'yes' vote must represent more than 50 per cent of the aggregate rateable value of votes cast.

Mr Jones said: "Having a Business Improvement District for Bridgend will bring a number of benefits. Already discussed by the BID steering group have been a number of key priorities for improvement such as better marketing for the town, improving access and parking, creating a safer and more welcoming town and seeing what measures can be taken to best support businesses in the town. A successful outcome will see these and many other priorities taken forward.

"It is important to note that the BID levy will not go to central government but instead be managed by the BID company and used in the BID area. The BID levy will be collected separately. The BID levy will deliver projects in addition to those statutory activities and services provided by Bridgend Council.

"Through the BID company, there will be an opportunity to create a brighter Bridgend with the aim of attracting more visitors and investment into the town- a chance to carve out a distinctive USP for the town. Also, I believe that supporting a BID scheme will be another tool to counteract the increasing challenges that town centres such as Bridgend currently face.

"Also, a number of BID schemes have proven successful in attracting funding in addition to the BID levy."

He added: "I would urge all those who are eligible to vote to take part. I also hope that traders will see the potential of contributing to a BID scheme.

"I know there are concerns from some traders who question why they should pay an additional tax on top of business rates.

"It is important to bear in mind that many businesses will be paying less or no business rates in the future as a result of the new Welsh Government commitment to reduce business rates for most small businesses in Wales. This is an opportunity to make Bridgend a better area for doing business and I for one would not want to see this opportunity lost."

Pencoed welcomes twinning visitors

Twin towns at the Senedd.

PENCOED Town and District Twinning Association recently welcomed 52 visitors from twin town Waldsassen, Bavaria.

A busy programme included an official welcome followed by a visit to the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea and the Mumbles. The weather was good and our visitors enjoyed the sea air – being very far from the sea this was a treat for them!

We visited the Senedd and were greeted by Huw Irranca-Davies, Ogmore's new AM. This was followed by a visit to Ewenny Pottery and the adjoining stained glass works. Much to our surprise, specialised glass is purchased from Waldsassen for use there! We then proceeded to Southerndown, where some of our more hardy visitors went for a swim!

We had an official evening at Pencoed Rugby Club with a hog roast provided by HogFather and we visited the National Botanic Gardens. We had an excellent lunch at Pant Glas near Llandeilo before our return to Pencoed.

A number of hosts took their visitors to the Bryncae Arms and with a total of 45 dining, the staff there were fantastic!

We were all sad to see our visitors leave, but hope to visit Waldsassen in 2017.

Most of the visitors were hosted by families in Pencoed and district.

If you would like to find out more about the activities and social events of the Twinning Association, call 01443 230282; email: marksteer150@gmail.com. **MS**

Sony promotions

THE Sony UK Technology Centre at Pencoed has promoted Gareth Jones and Wyn Landon to general managers.

Having joined the centre in 1986 as a process technician, Gareth is a highly experienced engineer who now specialises in business development. He will have responsibility for the generation of additional business streams.

Wyn is a chartered accountant who joined Sony UK Technology Centre in April 2002, having previously worked for Prematec Group and Coleg Sir Gar. He will have responsibility for all aspects of business control, including financial management, facilities and IS.

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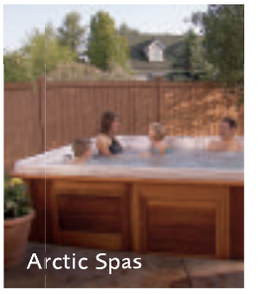

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CARDIFF AIRPORT UNVEILS ITS NEW-LOOK DEPARTURE LOUNGE

Debra Barber, MD and COO of Cardiff Airport and Vale-based weather girl, Ruth Wignall, cut the ribbon, watched by Andy Webb, business development director, SSP The Food Travel Experts.

CARDIFF Airport marked the start of the summer season with the official unveiling of its latest improvements to the customer experience.

Following a busy 11 months of passenger growth, works have been continuing to enhance the terminal's facilities.

The latest project to be completed is a brand new bar and restaurant – The Beer House – plus a completely transformed coffee shop, Ritazza; both located in the departures area after security.

Developed in partnership with SSP, a leading operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations worldwide, The Beer House has been designed to reflect the best of Welsh products and includes locally produced beers by Tiny Rebel and Brains, as well as new food items using Welsh ingredients.

Ritazza offers great coffee, and perhaps a light bite to eat. The brand is inspired by cosmopolitan and multicultural European café culture.

Cardiff Airport is expecting a busy summer. Airlines will be busy serving a wide choice of sunny destinations, including Spain and the Canaries, Bulgaria, Malta, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Turkey.

Debra Barber, managing director and chief operating officer at Cardiff Airport, said: "This latest development really reinforces what an exciting time it is for Cardiff Airport.

"As passenger growth continues, we are continuing to work hard and improve the experience for our customers.

"The Beer House and Ritazza are different in their offering but complement each other very well, giving passengers choice and quality.

"The departures area has been transformed and we're looking forward to a busy summer at Wales' national airport!"

Crossbreeds given chance to qualify for Crufts

SCRUFFTS, the competition that gives crossbreed dogs the opportunity to compete in the main arena at Crufts, is looking for local top dogs as it comes to the South Wales dog and family fun day at Fonmon Castle, in the Vale of Glamorgan, on May 30.

Dogs and owners competing at the heats are hoping to make it through to the class semi-finals, held at Eukanuba Discover Dogs at ExCeL London in October, and from there six lucky crossbreed dogs will qualify for Crufts 2017.

All crossbreeds and mixed breed dogs in the area are invited to take part in the Scruffts Family Crossbreed Dog of the Year competition, sponsored by James Wellbeloved, where all shapes, sizes and ages of dog are welcome.

Each dog entered in the competition will have a few minutes to dazzle the judges in one or more of the six competition categories: Most Handsome Crossbreed Dog, Prettiest Crossbreed Bitch, Child's Best Friend, Golden Oldie Crossbreed, Best Crossbreed Rescue and the Good Citizen Dog Scheme class.

For entry criteria for each class, visit www.scruffts.org.uk.

When choosing the winner and runners-up for each class, the judge ensures that the dog has the following qualities: good character; good health; good personality; good temperament with people and other dogs, and well behaved.

Caroline Kisko, secretary of the Kennel Club, which organises the competition, said: "Scruffts is a fantastic competition, celebrating the love, companionship and often heroic stories of our nation's crossbreed dogs.

"These heats also raise money for the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which makes a difference for dogs by funding a wide variety of work, ranging from supporting research into canine diseases, to welfare initiatives."

Volunteers needed for 'meet and greet' service

CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board is currently looking for volunteers to support the 'Meet and Greet' service at University Hospital Llandough.

As part of National Volunteers Week, an open day will be held at the Information Centre at University Hospital Llandough on Thursday, June 2 between 11am and 2pm.

A spokeswoman explained: "Cardiff and Vale UHB welcomes volunteering applications from all walks of life, including people who have the experience of a mental health condition.

"Our meet and greet volunteers provide a welcoming service to all patients, visitors, carers and Health Board staff across various hospital sites."

To volunteer, contact Michelle Fowler, Voluntary Services Manager, on 029 21847867 or email Michelle.Fowler2@wales.nhs.uk.

£593.7m cost for 'free prescriptions'

THE cost of the universal free prescriptions policy continues to rise, with almost £600 million spent on prescriptions in 2015, according to figures published last week.

Total spend on the prescriptions reached a record-breaking £593.7m last year, compared to just £410.4m in the year that universal free prescriptions were first introduced in 2000.

The new data has led to calls from the Welsh Conservatives for "an urgent review" of the free prescriptions policy, with Wales now prescribing the more items per head in any part of the UK.

Wales dispensed the highest number of prescription items per head across the UK in 2015: 25.7 compared to 21.6 in Northern Ireland, 20.0 in England and 19.0 in Scotland.

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Local primary pupils keen on windfarm's dividend

Abercerdin pupils with Dale Hart of Pennant Walters.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Helen added: "Everyone in the local community, pupils and families alike, are on-board and can see the huge benefits that will be derived from having such resources on our doorstep."

Pennant Walters managing director Dale Hart said:

"We are thrilled that Abercerdin Primary School has developed these resources.

"It is great to see the money being put to such good use and will benefit local people for years to come.

"Our wind energy projects come with community funds that we use to invest in projects such as this and our aim is to bring very real benefits to the communities in the vicinity of our projects, providing financial assistance and expertise where we can."

Both the community hub and the farmland will be open to all members of the community from 3.30pm to 5pm weekdays.

Pennant Walters operates two new wind farms in the Gilfach Goch and Blackmill areas, Pant y Wal in the county of Bridgend, and Fforch Nest, which straddles the border of Bridgend and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

A company spokesperson said: "The two sites have a total of 21 turbines producing 53 megawatts of clean electricity – enough to power the equivalent of 25,000 homes."

Local store sponsors young Rotary cooks

THE Rotary organisation encourages young people by providing competitions and opportunities that would otherwise not be available to them.

One such competition is Rotary Young Chef which is open to students in full-time education between the ages of 11 and 17. This year, competitors were asked to provide a special three-course meal for two, for under £15.

A Rotary spokesman explained: "During a recent visit to the Rotary Club meeting at the West House Hotel, the sponsor of the competition, Mr Ian Hunt, managing director of Filco Supermarkets, presented club president Dr David Rogers with a cheque for £500. Mr Hunt, a strong supporter of the competition for many years, said that it was important for young people to gain knowledge of basic cookery skills and to be aware of methods of creating healthy meals.

"Skills successfully learned at this age would offer a life-long benefit to those taking part. On behalf of Filco Foods, he was delighted to support the event again this year.

"David Rogers thanked Ian Hunt for the generous support which enabled Llantwit Major Rotary to continue offering this important event.

"Other initiatives to encourage young people include Young Musician, Young Inventor, Youth Speaks and the Camp Ryla (Rotary Youth Leadership Award)."

For further information about the youth competitions supported by the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, visit their website at http://tiny.cc/llantwitrotary.

BONSAI DISPLAY

DYFFRYN Gardens will host the Cardiff Bonsai Club's display of bonsai trees this bank holiday weekend, May 28 – 30.

The public can learn about growing and caring for these miniature trees, with demonstrations, workshops and advice from club experts.

The display is from 10am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday, and from 10am – 4pm on Monday. The gardens are open from 10am – 6pm; last entry at 5pm and normal admission prices apply.

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Walk raised £10,850 total for charities

THE Touched by Cancer sixth annual sponsored walk which took place last October, raised a massive £10,850 for local cancer support charities.

The money was distributed by Coun Megan Butcher, chair and founder of Touched by Cancer, at the Sandville Self Help Centre, Kenfig last week, when £3,500 was handed to Sandville Self Help Centre, and the same amount to LATCH (Porthcawl) and Macmillan (Bridgend).

A small donation of £250 was also given to the Teenage Cancer Trust (south Wales) for their work with young people.

Coun Butcher said: "We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous support we have been given over the last six years, from local people, businesses and other organisations."

She also thanked family, friends and David Brace (Dunraven Windows) Gareth Maund (Prince of Wales pub, Kenfig) and David Carrington (Kenfig Nature Reserve) for their unstinting support.

Since it started in 2010, Touched by Cancer has raised over £66,000 towards helping cancer sufferers and their families across the local area.

The 2016 Sponsored Walk takes place on Saturday, October 29 and sponsor forms are available from tbc@caddt.org or by calling 01656 670812.

MOYA'S THANKS

I WOULD like to say 'thank you' to all the pupils from the Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet based in Cowbridge (with pupils from across the Vale and Bridgend areas) and to the Ella Morgan school of Dance, based in Pontyclun and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

The schools joined together for a performance of Sleeping Beauty, with music played by the Rhondda Symphonietta Players, conducted by Nic Treharne.

Rachel Bent was an excellent Aurora and Llewelyn Brown a charming Prince; Alice Teague, a dainty Lilac Fairy but strong enough to stop Isaac St John Griffiths spoiling the story with the wicked Carabosse.

The three-year-olds stole the show in their pink tutus!

Very grateful thanks to all the helpers back stage and front of house, and to the staff at The Sony Theatre, Bridgend College; £5,000 was raised for Cancer Research Wales at Velindre Hospital.

Moya Vahey Beynon, Cowbridge.

Dinas Powys Community Council: a year in review

ABOVE: Margaret Hayley with Keith Hatton, retiring chair.

RETIRING chair of Dinas Powys Community Council, Coun Keith Hatton, said that working with and providing services for the community were the hallmarks of the past year.

Coun Hatton said: "We have worked hard to engage with all aspects of the community such as Dr Sue Thomas of the medical centre, the foodbank, the WI defibrillator appeal and the Scouts.

"We have made representations to and met with many outside organisations including the Vale Council, the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Creative Rural Communities."

Among other achievements, Coun Hatton was pleased to have helped arrange floodlighting for the Dinas Powys war memorial. He said: "It is a lasting tribute to those from within our community who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our democracy and the freedom we enjoy today. Thanks to the research of Derek Brushett, two names missing from the roll of men were added to the memorial."

One of the most moving events was the special tribute on July 9, at the war memorial, to the holidaymakers who were murdered in Tunisia in 2015.

Coun Margaret Hayley was installed as the 122nd chair.

Margaret, born in Dinas Powys, has enjoyed a varied sporting career, representing Wales at tennis and lacrosse and continuing to play veteran tennis at international level.

NFU visit to English country garden

THE Vale NFU Ladies' May trip was a success, with 47 ladies heading off to Pam Lewis's garden at Devizes.

Welcomed by coffee, tea and homemade biscuits, the ladies soon got in the swing of a fun day; Pam showed us around her large garden, before a delicious lunch.

Ten floral arrangements were made, raffled by Pam, and more walks around the garden made the whole day relaxing and successful.

Chairperson Kay thanked Pam and reminded the club that a summer break will now take place before regular monthly meetings commence in September. New members always welcome. **JS**

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Sully U3A group learn about Vale's churches

MEMBERS at Sully U3A's May meeting were entertained by a talk on churches in the Vale by John Winton.

He began his working life as a teacher, reaching the position of deputy headmaster of a secondary school in the Midlands.

He then left teaching and helped set up the Church Tourism Network in the late 1990s to assist churches to attract visitors and promote them, becoming the organisation's director.

Recently, he organised the setting up of Sanctaidd, a charity set up to support places of worship in Wales, not only in terms of tourism, but also in terms of funds to support repairs and improvements to places of worship.

John said religious buildings are a huge draw for international visitors to Britain.

Visiting churches and cathedrals constantly rates highly as one of the top priorities for international tourists and there are a huge number of churches in south Wales.

He concentrated his talk on churches in the Vale and showed slides of some including Ewenny Priory, the most complete Norman church in south Wales, St Cadoc's, Llancarfan, with its re-discovered mediaeval wall-paintings, St Illtud's, Llantwit Major, one of the oldest Christian sites in the UK

He was thanked by chairman, Jean Bispham for his interesting talk and answered questions.

The next monthly meeting will be on June 9 when the AGM will take place, followed by a tea party with 1920s theme to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. **SC**

Why Caitlin and Tomas (aged 10) are raising funds for Velindre

TWO 10-year-old Scouts from 11th Barry Sea Scout Group have taken on the task of raising £500 in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre.

Caitlin Thompson and Tomas Murray have only recently been invested in to the Scout section after spending the last two years as Cubs. They held a coffee morning on Saturday, May 21 at the *Whitecrest II*, which is the 11th Barry's HQ in Illminster Street.

When asked what prompted them decide to support Velindre, Tomas said: "My Nan has cancer and my Granddad has had it twice. When my mum and dad told me about my Nan, I wanted to do something to help."

Caitlin has a similar reason for wanting to help: "My Granddad had cancer a couple of years ago and when Tom told me about his Nan and wanting to do something, I decided that I wanted to too."

After talking to their parents, it was suggested that they do something for Velindre and they decided on a coffee morning.

With the idea for a coffee morning decided upon, they set about getting donations of cakes and raffle prizes. Due to the generosity of far too many people to mention, Caitlin and Tomas were able to run the coffee morning without having to buy anything for it. From the coffee and tea to the prizes for the raffle, everything was donated to them.

Among over 100 people at the event were Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns MP, and the newly elected deputy mayor of Barry, Coun Karl Kuhnell and Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Between the raffle, cakes and drinks the two young Scouts raised £404 with another £55 being donated via their Just Giving page.

Caitlin said: "It was amazing; people just kept coming up to us to buy cakes and to put notes into our collection bucket."

Tomas said: "We are so close to hitting £500 and our just giving page is still running. Please help us get there!"

To help Caitlin and Tomas to get to their target, go to www.justgiving.com and type in Tom & Caitlin's Coffee Morning. For more information about fundraising for Velindre, go to www.velindrefundraising.com.

Tom and Caitlin, with Coun Karl Kuhnell and Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Foodies are heading for a treat at Cowbridge over this bank holiday!

THE festival season is upon us and this week, while book lovers may be heading to the Hay Festival – food and drink lovers will be making a beeline for Cowbridge!

Having arrived at a successful formula, the organisers of the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink have made some minor tweaks, but all the favourite elements are present and correct – and with a favourable weather forecast, everything is looking good!

As usual, the festival will be over two days, Sunday, May 29 and Monday, May 30.

It's a popular event with stall-holders, and many will be turning up this year with more stock – as sales last year were very good, with several stalls running out of stock by early afternoon.

The popular feature of cooking demonstrations by local chefs is back once again, and there are a number of high-profile experts who will be sharing some of the secrets of their trade.

The men (and women) behind businesses such as Bar 44, the Hangfire Smokehouse, the Caban in Cardiff, and the Hare and Hounds in Aberthin will be on stage over the two days.

Extra events will be staged in the Old Hall Gardens, where the festival fringe has a busy programme.

And, of course, it's not all about buying produce to take home. What better place could you find for discovering a delicious bite to eat, or finding a wine, beer, cider or spirit to drink on the spot or take home?

Wales has a thriving food festival circuit, from north to south and from east to west, and Cowbridge is now a regular – and proud to be so!

For full details of everything that's taking place over a packed two days, go to ***cowbridgefoodanddrink.org***

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Holocaust survivor visits Barry school

ALMOST 200 students from Barry Comprehensive School heard the testimony of Holocaust survivor, Joanna Millan, during a recent visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET).

The visit was part of the HET's Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK, and allows students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust in more depth.

A spokesman for the school said: "It was a privilege for us to welcome Joanna Millan and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.

"We are grateful to the HET for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that our students will learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives."

Karen Pollock MBE, chief executive of the HET commented: "The HET educates and engages students from across the UK, from all communities about the Holocaust and there can be no better way than through the first-hand testimony of a survivor.

"At the Trust, we impart the history of the Holocaust to young people, to ensure that we honour the memory of those whose lives were lost and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived."

Students are now conducting a research project about the Holocaust to design and create a Holocaust memorial for their school.

AC

ABOVE: Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan shows a photo of herself before being deported to Theresienstadt concentration camp.

AGE CONNECTS

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale is getting involved with Stroke Awareness Month by holding a health topic session at The Senior Health Shop in Holton Road, Barry.

Cardiff and Vale Stroke Association will be on hand to give advice and help, with a range of 'life after stroke' services.

A spokesman said: "You may need help with daily living activities and there are products and services which can help you make your life more independent.

"There are also support groups in the local area and help for carers who have been affected by someone in the family suffering from a stroke. Contact 01446 732385 for further information or just come along.

LEARNING TO MANAGE ALLERGIC REACTIONS

THE spring and summer months – are a wonderful time of year with longer days, rising temperatures, long walks and glorious holidays. But for the 15 million people in the UK who suffer with hay fever, the change of season can bring with it sneezing, runny noses and itchy eyes.

Hay fever is an allergic reaction to pollen – of which there are several types. The majority of hay fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen and tend to start experiencing symptoms from May until July or August.

For those with allergies to tree pollen, their onset of symptoms will depend on which type they're allergic to and when the tree produces pollen.

For some people, symptoms can be mild and there's no need for medication. But for others, hay fever can cause discomfort, lack of concentration and irritability.

Pharmacists are always available to provide advice about hay fever treatment, often you don't need to see a doctor.

We can ask you your symptoms and how severe they are. If you only get hay fever symptoms now and again and the symptoms are confined to the nasal area, a nasal spray can be effective.

People have to be cautious, however, when using a decongestant nasal spray as regular use can actually have a rebound effect and make you have a blocked nose.

If a person has more symptoms, like sneezing accompanied with a runny nose, antihistamine tablets can be effective. These, however, may be less effective at relieving a blocked nose.

For those who suffer with itchy or sore eyes, eyedrops can help.

When you are buying hay fever medicines or picking up your prescription, your pharmacist may ask if you will be driving.

This is because some hay fever treatments can cause drowsiness. Newer antihistamines are non-drowsy and your pharmacist can guide you to these.

If over the counter treatments don't give you sufficient relief or your symptoms are particularly severe, your pharmacist will be able to tell you if you should see your GP.

by KATE THOMAS
Pharmacist at Sylvia Williams

There are also simple things you can do to help keep your hay fever at bay. Most weather reports include information about pollen counts – if they are high, try to stay indoors as much as possible. If you do want to venture out, wear sunglasses and keep your car windows closed when driving. It can also help to shower and change your clothes after you've been outside.

It is worth noting for hay fever sufferers that treatments can sometimes take a long time to work so make sure you speak to your pharmacist well ahead of this year's hay fever peak season.

Pollen is by no means the only cause of allergies, other allergies include pets, moulds, dustmites, foods and chemicals. Allergic reactions include wheezing, sneezing, asthma, eczema and hives.

If you feel you may be suffering from any of these allergies call in to see us and get advice on the most appropriate treatment.

Don't forget to take advantage of other free services your pharmacy can offer, we are here to help.

Discharge medication reviews: If you you have been discharge from hospital recently, take the stress out of organising your new prescription, send your pharmacy a copy of your medication discharge sheet and they can liaise with your doctor's surgery to ensure you get everything you need.

Medicine use review: Any problems taking any of your medicines, not sure what you are taking them for? We can advise you and help with any issues, to ensure you get the maximum benefit out of your medicines.

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WHAT'S ON & WHERE IN YOUR AREA?

Porthcawl Farmers market

THIS monthly market will be at Awel y Mor Community Hall in Porthcawl from 9am – 12.30pm on Saturday, May 28 with the usual regular producers in attendance.

This month we will also have Ele's Little Kitchen, with a range of Spanish tapas available.

Barry War museum

THE Barry War Museum at Barry Island Station will be open on May 28, 29 and 30 from 11am to 3.30pm. Recruiting now for Wartime Weekend in September!

TaxHelp for Older People

TOP's income tax surgery will take place on May 30 from 10am – 12 noon.

No appointment necessary; older people on a restricted income with income tax queries and/or problems are welcome at Roz Couzens' Chiropody surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1RB.

Home visits can also be arranged if necessary, on 0845 6013321 or 01308 488066.

Stroke Awareness addendum

THE next Stroke Awareness session to be held at Age Connects Senior Health Shop is on Tuesday, May 31 from 10am to 12 midday.

Half term activities at Barry Library

TUESDAY, May 31 10am – 12pm: Fairy and Pixie Craft drop-in session, children must be accompanied by an adult. For children 4+, £1 charge.

May 31 2pm: Coding – book a place through the eventbrite link on the libraries web page.

Wednesday, June 1 at 2 pm: Story Time – story and craft for 2 – 5-year-olds.

Thursday, June 2, 2pm – 4pm: Minecraft – book a place through www.milittlepad.com. The session will be £8 per child.

Old Girls' reunion

THE Cowbridge High School Old Girls' Association will hold their summer reunion on June 3 at the Cowbridge Athletic Club at 7pm.

For details, contact Caroline on 01656 784898 or Gail on 02920 891089.

Orchid Society talk

CARDIFF and Vale Orchid Society is hosting a talk on Cymbidium orchids by Ian Parsons, chairman of the British Orchid Society, on Saturday, June 4 at 2pm. The talk will take place at the Old Sully School, Sully.

Anyone with orchids, or an interest in orchids is welcome to come along on the day. For more information contact Tony Cumming on 01446 738472.

Junior fishing competition

OGMORE Angling Association hold their annual junior fishing competition on Sunday, June 5 at the Dipping Bridge, River Ogmore, from 10am-1pm.

A 'catch and release' policy and the use of measuring boards and barbless hooks is operated by the club, which will be supplied on the day.

Open to all OAA members under 18, non members may join the club on the day; prizes and refreshments.

Further enquiries to 01446 794261.

South Wales Shadows Club

MEETING on June 14 at The Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979); to play, bring your guitar, (use our PA etc) or just to listen. Licensed bar from 8pm, all are welcome.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D932.

- **£2,000:** 967723.
- **The rollover, which is now £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 779285, 675166, 857818, 927905, 331274, 476680, 136674, 950541, 237616, 613529, 702933, 256059, 402828, 753955, 893943, 635205, 717771, 1174, 1806, 1755.
- **£5:** 604009, 773514, 295263, 959403, 878967, 434123, 284133, 223332, 862231, 346847, 788953, 537847, 658462, 936929, 478629, 965099, 238891, 694336, 892789, 630785, 558409, 624605, 278189, 454943, 257758, 231769, 615669, 744586, 835717, 449861, 787451, 418003, 900445, 117547, 928682, 127308, 264596, 803827, 228006, 454568, 159348, 648054, 376788, 279733, 555678, 500409, 875857, 255984, 214313, 666835, 316421, 686757, 708993, 193109, 837, 1808, 720, 1956841, 1838867, 5647.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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YFC annual rally day

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Club annual rally day is taking place on Saturday, June 11 at Slade Farm Organics in St Brides Major by permission of the Davies family.

This year's theme of 'through the decades'sees 250 members from across Glamorgan battle it out for silverware and the honour of representing the county at the next round of competitions at the Royal Welsh Show in July.

Local businesses and producers are also invited to exhibit at the Rally Day, to display their produce and products to visitors and competitors alike.

For further information about rally day, visit www.glamorganyfc.co.uk or get in touch with County Organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk.

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Apocalypse is severely lacking in X-factor…

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

ITS hard to believe, but the X-Men franchise is 16 years old, having debuted in 2000 with the simply-titled *X-Men*.

Since then the films have had highs (*X2, Days Of Future Past*) and lows (*The Last Stand*, the ill-conceived *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*), but with Bryan Singer behind the camera for his fourth X-outing, hopes are high for *X-Men: Apocalypse*.

Set in the 1980s, it follows Charles Xavier (James McAvoy), who has set up his school for mutants in a world where mutants are not forced to hide away.

However, Xavier and his pupils face a gigantic test when they are brought into conflict with Apocalypse (Oscar Isaac), the first mutant who has survived through millennia and is intent on wreaking havoc on the human race, assisted by, among others, Magneto (Michael Fassbender).

However, with the return to the fold of Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence), this new breed of X-Men must take the fight to Apocalypse – and try to prevent the end of the world as we know it...

About halfway through *X-Men: Apocalypse*, after a group of young X-ers have watched *Return of the Jedi*, there is debate about which film in the Star Wars trilogy is the best, with Sophie Turner's Jean Grey ending the debate by saying, "Everyone knows the third film is the worst".

If you consider this the third film in a new X-Men franchise, rebooted ever so softly in 2010's *First Class* (and there's no reason why you shouldn't, quite frankly) then Grey's critique of …*Jedi* is certainly applicable here.

Apocalypse is a dour and underwhelming experience that never seemingly gets into gear to offer something that thrills or excites.

While the previous films have used their time period as a backdrop to the story (*First Class* set against the Cuban Missile Crisis, *DOFP* against the Vietnam war and its fallout), *Apocalypse*'s 1980s setting doesn't lend itself to anything in particular, with only the occasional gag such as the aforementioned critique of *Return of the Jedi* and the odd cultural nod here and there.

It feels strangely empty as a film, the stakes being reduced to simply a megalomaniac who wants to take over the world and reorganise it in his image, and the X-Men having to stop him.

What weight you could include by having a figure who has lived through millennia and the connotations of what he is capable of is barely even touched upon, making the titular villain nothing particularly exciting or fresh.

His motivations are basic to say the least, and without a villain of real substance, the film flounders as the X-Men themselves suffer from poor writing and a lack of identity. Not all the characters fail to land – Kodi Smit-McPhee's Nightcrawler, Tye Sheridan's Scott Summers, Evan Peter's Quicksilver and, belatedly, Turner's Jean Grey stick out most in the memory – but far too many of them are reduced to a cool entrance and then a failure to do anything with them.

The likes of Alexandra Shipp's Storm, Olivia Munn's Psylocke and Ben Hardy's Angel are one-dimensional at best, Oscar Isaac can't quite break through the prosthetics as the titular villain, while the established characters such as McAvoy's Xavier, Fassbender's Magneto and Jennifer Lawrence's Mystique just lack the punch to really resonate.

It's strange because the latter two probably have the most intriguing arcs – Magneto has turned his back on the world and is living anonymously with a wife and child; Mystique is, after the events of the last film, considered to be a mutant icon looked up to by others – but are hamstrung by the script.

Mystique's arc is in the background but never really explored in depth while Magneto's new life of tranquillity is waiting to be shattered from the get-go and plays out with predictability.

Bryan Singer, marking his fourth outing in the director's chair for this particular franchise, doesn't do a bad job; in fact, there are a few scenes that are impressively staged, such as Apocalypse's initial resurrection, a Quicksilver sequence that makes The Eurythmics' 'Sweet Dreams Are Made of This' faintly bearable, and a scene that sees a familiar face unleash a significant amount of bloodshed on some unsuspecting military-types.

However, when the film reaches its crescendo, in a large-scale battle sequence taking place in the rubble-strewn streets of Cairo, you can't help but feel that it's the sort of sequence that comes all too frequently in films of this ilk, and doesn't truly stand out, while call-backs to previous films only serve to remind you of the difference in quality.

In fact, that's the main charge that you can levy at this film; that for a franchise that has always dug deeper into the psychology of the characters and their motivations, this feels like a film that is all surface, no feeling.

There's no X-factor on show, ironically, making *Apocalypse* something of a disappointment.

VERDICT – A disappointing and underwhelming experience, *X-Men: Apocalypse* suffers from having a by-the-numbers villain, predictable story arcs and characters whose surfaces are barely scratched. There are the odd moments that shine, while several characters resonate, but overall this is a distinctly lacklustre piece of work. Average.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *X-Men: Days of Futures Past* (2014), *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Screen

BIG Screen's next film for this season is *Bridge of Spies* (Cert 12A) on Thursday, May 21 at 7.30pm in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Set in the days of the Cold War a reluctant lawyer (Tom Hanks) is sent to interrogate a suspected East German spy (Mark Rylance) in order to secure the release of U2 pilot Gary Powers.

Doors open 7.10pm, tickets £4 in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door.

Stained glass

ON Saturday and Sunday, June 25 (10am – 5pm) and 26 (12pm – 5pm) St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, will hold a stained glass window festival, followed by Songs of Praise at 6pm, when the favourite windows will be announced.

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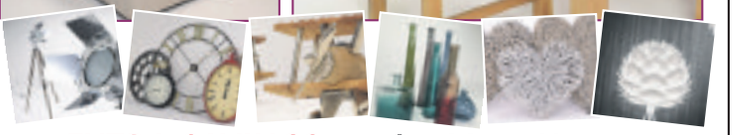

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LANSIO GWYL FACH Y FRO 2016!

MAE Menter Bro Morgannwg yn falch i gyhoeddi y bydd Gŵyl Fach y Fro yn dychwelyd unwaith eto i Ynys y Barri eleni – ar ddydd Sadwrn, Mehefin 18.

Yn dilyn sefydlu'r ŵyl y llynedd, a gyda diolch i gefnogaeth parhaus gan Lywodraeth Cymru, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg, fe fydd yr ŵyl undydd yma'n rhan bwysig o raglen ddigwyddiadau haf y Cyngor eto eleni.

Yn perfformio yn Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2016 bydd Sŵnami, Sorela, Meic Stevens, Wonderbrass, Hanna Morgan (cantores lleol a chyn-ddisgybl Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg) a Lost in Chemistry (band ifanc o'r Barri, ac enillwyr Brwydr y Bandiau C2/Maes B 2015).

Bydd cannoedd o blant o ysgolion Cymraeg y Sir hefyd yn camu i'r llwyfan i berfformio yn ystod y diwrnod.

Mae nifer o elfennau newydd wedi eu hychwanegu at yr ŵyl eleni, ac un o'r datblygiadau cyffrous ar gyfer 2016 bydd stondinau cynnyrch a chrefftau Cymreig gan ddarparwyr lleol, bydd wedi eu lleoli yn yr hytiau traeth trawiadol ar y promenâd.

Bydd hefyd adloniant stryd a gweithdai gyda'r perfformwyr syrcas NoFit State; gweithdai ac arddangosfeydd Cardiff Arts Collective; Sioe, Amser Stori a Helfa Drysor gyda chyflwynwyr a chymeriadau *Cyw*; bŵth lluniau GuestWho; a gweithgareddau amrywiol gan bartneriaid Cymraeg yr ardal gan gynnwys Canolfan Cymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Mudiad Meithrin ac Adran Chwaraeon yr Urdd.

Mae'r datblygiadau newydd hefyd yn cynnwys bar, gyda chwrw arbennig yn cael ei greu ym mragdy lleol Tomos & Lilford i ddathlu'r digwyddiad, a bydd Ffwrnes Pizza a Slow Pig yn arlwyo'r ŵyl.

Elfen hollbwysig i Gŵyl Fach y Fro yw ei fod yn ddigwyddiad rhad ac am ddim, mewn lleoliad unigryw, cyhoeddus a phoblogaidd ar Ynys y Barri, gan ei wneud yn ddigwyddiad hynod hygyrch i bawb; boed yn siaradwr Cymraeg, neu'n cael eu profiad cyntaf o'r iaith a'r diwylliant.

Dywedodd Robert Thomas, rheolwr-gyfarwyddwr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg: "Yn dilyn ymlaen o lwyddiant yr ŵyl llynedd, rydym yn falch iawn i gynnig ein cefnogaeth barhaus i Fenter Bro Morgannwg i gynnal Gŵyl Fach y Fro ar Ynys y Barri unwaith eto eleni. Rydym yn ystyried yr ŵyl yn rhan annatod o'n rhaglen ddigwyddiadau yr haf, ac yn edrych ymlaen i gefnogi y trefnwyr unwaith eto i godi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg trwy gerddoriaeth, dawns ac adloniant yn yr ŵyl."

Dywedodd Ben Thomas, aelod o'r band Lost in Chemistry: "Mae Cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau 2015 wedi bod o help mawr i ni i dorri mewn i'r Sîn Roc Gymraeg – fel rhan o'r wobr rydym wedi cael profiadau gwych o berfformio ar Lwyfan y Maes ac yn Maes B llynedd yn ogystal â gweithio'n agos gyda'n mentor Mei Gwynedd i recordio mwy o ganeuon Cymraeg i ychwanegu at ein rhaglen.

"Mae'n gret gweld bod gŵyl gerddoriaeth Gymraeg nawr wedi cael ei sefydlu ym Mro Morgannwg, ac rydyn ni'n edrych ymlaen yn fawr i berfformio ar lannau Ynys y Barri fis Mehefin!"

Bydd modd i ymwelwyr wirio'r rhaglen a'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am Gŵyl Fach y Fro ar wefan, tudalen Facebook a Twitter Menter Bro Morgannwg: www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg; Twitter: @MIBroMorgannwg.

Launching Gwyl Fach y Fro 2016!

MENTER Bro Morgannwg is pleased to announce that Gŵyl Fach y Fro will return once again this year to Barry Island – on Saturday, June 18.

This annual Welsh arts and music festival was established by Menter Bro Morgannwg last year, to celebrate and raise the profile of the Welsh language in the Vale. With thanks to Welsh Government, Wales Arts Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council for their continued support, this one-day festival will once again be an important part of the Vale Council's summer events programme.

Performing in Gŵyl Fach y Fro 2016 will be Sŵnami, Sorela, Meic Stevens, Wonderbrass, Hanna Morgan (local singer-songwriter who is also an ex-pupil of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg) and Lost in Chemistry (local band from Barry, and winners of the National Eisteddfod Battle of the Bands 2015).

Hundreds of schoolchildren from the Vale's Welsh medium schools will also take to the stage to perform during the day.

There are lots of new elements to this year's festival, and one of the exciting developments for 2016 will be stalls selling Welsh local produce and gifts, which will be located in the stunning beach huts on the promenade.

There will also be street entertainment and workshops with NoFit State circus; Cardiff Arts Collective workshops and exhibitions; a show, storytime, and treasure hunt with popular presenters and characters from S4C's *Cyw*; GuestWho photo booth; and various activities organised Welsh language partners in the Vale including Welsh for Adults, Mudiad Meithrin and the Urdd Sport Department.

The new developments will also include a bar, which will stock a special ale made by local brewers Tomos & Lilford to celebrate the event, and Ffwrnes Pizza and Slow Pig will cater.

An important element of Gŵyl Fach y Fro is the fact that entry is completely free, in this unique, public and popular location on Barry Island, which makes the event completely accessible to all; Welsh speakers, Welsh learners, or those who wish to experience the Welsh language and its culture for the first time.

Robert Thomas, Vale of Glamorgan Council's chief executive, said: "Following on from the success of last year's festival, we are delighted to offer our continued support to Menter Bro Morgannwg in hosting Gŵyl Fach Y Fro at Barry Island once again this year. We consider the festival integral to our summer events programme, and are looking forward to working with the organisers once again to support them in raising the profile of Welsh language through music, dance and entertainment at the festival.

Ben Thomas, a member of Lost in Chemistry, said: "The Battle of the Bands 2015 competition has given us valuable experience and assistance to break into the Welsh-language music scene – the prize included an opportunity to perform in the National Eisteddfod and Maes B, as well as to work closely with our mentor Mei Gwynedd to record more Welsh songs to add to our repertoire.

"It's great that an annual Welsh music festival has now been established in the Vale, and we're very much looking forward to performing on Barry Island in June!"

Visitors will be able to view the programme in full as well as receive the latest news about Gŵyl Fach y Fro from Menter Bro Morgannwg's website, Facebook and Twitter pages: www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru; Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg; Twitter: @MIBroMorgannwg.

Gwyl Fach y Fro, July 2015.

'There is hope if you are in debt'

IT is believed that about four million people in this country are in some form of debt.

Financial mismanagement puts a great strain on family life, many couples end up in the divorce courts because of the financial situation they are in.

Some people commit suicide.

I have been in this situation myself, and I know what it is like.

The most important thing I learned was not to ignore it, but to take action as soon as possible.

There is a website called www.Money.Advice.service.org.uk, telephone 0300 500 5000.

This website gives really good advice on all sorts of money matters, e.g. debt, money management, household budgeting, pensions, etc.

There are also several debt counselling agencies who do not charge and offer good advice on debt matters.

Christians Against Poverty, telephone 0800 328 0006; Payplan, telephone 0800 280 2816; Debt Advice Foundation, telephone 0800 043 4050.

David S Ball, Swansea.

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Vale celebrates 7th walking festival on Barry Island

Valeways supporters are joined at Barry Island by the AM.

WALKERS gathered for the seventh Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival from the former Tourist Information Centre, Barry Island on May 19.

They were joined by Vale AM Jane Hutt, who said: "This excellent walking festival has been organised by the charity Valeways for the past seven years with support from the Vale Council, Barry Town Council, the Ramblers, the Vale Music Festival, the South Wales Geologist Association and the Wildlife Trust.

"This year's festival offered walks for all, which perfectly showcased the beautiful Vale of Glamorgan."

For more information about Valeways and their guided walks – as well as their vital maintenance and preservation work – visit the website at: www.valeways.org.uk/.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vintage railway

THE Barry Tourist Railway will be operating vintage trains from Barry Island over the spring bank holiday weekend, May 28, 29, 30. The funfair will also operate.

Poetry and 'Elmer Day'

LOCAL poet Paul Evans will be at Griffin Books in Penarth from 7pm this evening (Thursday), reading from his collection *Dry Stoned Walls*.

Then on Saturday, May 28 from 10am – 4pm the shop will hold an 'Elmer Day' for younger children, with storytelling, activities, special offers and a colouring competition, all celebrating the popular patchwork elephant. Admission to both events is free with refreshments provided.

Beach clean-up

THE Friends will hold their monthly beach clean on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30, at Watchtower Bay, The Knap, Barry.

Volunteers should meet at 3pm at the Watchtower near the old Knap lido.

"Why not come along and spend an hour helping your community? We look forward to welcoming volunteers old and new," a spokesman said.

STUDENTS GET TOGETHER FOR A MUSIC WORKSHOP

RECENTLY, members of the Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School year-12 music class visited Gladstone Primary School.

The group was made up of eight year-12 music students: Nicole Boyles, Lukas Wallis, Eleri Mees, Cerys Thomas, Lucy Bellinger, Kia Braund, Chloe Thurlbert and Holly Lashmar.

As part of the year-12 music course it is a requirement for students to take part in teaching a community project, which could consist of any number of musical tasks. In this case, the group taught a selection of year-6 students from Gladstone Primary how to sing 'Stitches' by Shawn Mendes.

After watching several lessons at Bryn Hafren, the students attempted to emulate their music teachers Miss Bryony Doyle and Mr Lewis Green with Bryn Hafren year-7 pupils. The results were excellent, as noted by many of the teachers from Gladstone Primary School.

As the excitable year-6 pupils entered the hall, they were met by a group of equally excited sixth form students who, together with their armoury of instruments, were ready for the workshop to begin.

The workshop started with the learning criteria and the year-6 pupils quickly jumped on board with ideas being thrown around. They were able to show their knowledge of musical techniques and after being introduced to a vocal toolbox the pupils flourished, and the workshop was able to move along quickly.

After a polished demonstration of their own, the sixth form students went about teaching Gladstone the song 'Stitches' and after an extremely successful first run-through, more complex features and techniques were added to further improve the piece performed by this collection of budding stars.

Overall, the workshop was deemed a great success for both sets of students with the year-12 class being invited back for further workshops in the future.

Hopefully, the children of Gladstone were able to directly benefit from this experience, as they were taught key singing skills such as how to form and maintain a harmony, singing in call and response, singing in canon, as well as utilising accompaniments such as bongo drums.

The pupils voiced their opinions that, in future, they want to incorporate an even larger range of instruments into future performances, and this is something that could be an exciting proposition for the next workshop.

Written by Lukas Wallis and Nicole Boyles.

Aberthin Tractor Boys enjoy a 'Busman's Holiday' fundraising run on the Gower

THE Aberthin Tractor Boys are well known in the Vale and Bridgend county borough for their fundraising tractor runs.

However, recently the guys, girls and their families, roamed further afield and decided to take in Swansea, the iconic Mumbles, and, of course, the Gower.

This time funds raised will go to Singleton Hospital's premature baby unit. GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture the best moments on a great day out.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

LEFT: The Aberthin Tractor Boys love making their events a family day out!

Corporate plan to make Vale's vision a reality

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE**
Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

I WOULD like to open this month's column by congratulating both Jane Hutt AM and Vaughan Gething AM on their re-election to the National Assembly for Wales, along with the regional Assembly Members for south Wales central. I would also congratulate Alun Michael on his re-election as Police and Crime Commissioner for south Wales.

Since the elections we also now have a new Welsh Government and I look forward to having a constructive and collaborative dialogue with them over the coming months.

While those elections may have been dominating the headlines, work has not stopped for those of us in the Vale of Glamorgan Council and has seen a number of exciting developments locally.

I have this month launched the Vale Council's new corporate plan, which was agreed following public consultation earlier this year.

This plan, which has been developed alongside the council's medium term financial plan (the financial framework of the council), sets out the key pieces of work the council will undertake between now and 2020 in order to make this vision a reality for residents.

The plan reflects this council's core values, which are: 'Ambitious, Open, Together and Proud', with the primary goal to foster 'Strong Communities with a Bright Future'.

It is, of course, much more than just a printed document: this council knows that residents across the Vale are working hard to support their families and caring for the young and old in our communities.

They expect and deserve good services, which meet their needs. This new corporate plan, therefore, sets out not only how we will deliver for them, but also our vision for the Vale of Glamorgan as a place we are all proud of, one where people choose to live, conduct business and enjoy visiting, where there are opportunities for all ages and where everyone feels valued and has an optimistic future.

Despite delivering savings approaching £35 million since 2010, this council has continued to provide priority services that meet local needs and was ranked as the top performing council in Wales last year, according to figures published by Data Unit Wales. This is why we are confident that we can deliver the programme of actions contained in this corporate plan and make a positive difference to the lives of local people.

As well as the launch of the new plan, I have reconfigured and decreased the cabinet membership that will deliver it.

As Leader of the council and cabinet member for resources and inward investment, I am now supported by Coun Lis Burnett as Deputy Leader and cabinet member for regeneration and education; Coun Bronwen Brooks as cabinet member for housing and social care and health; Coun Gwyn John as cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services; and Coun Peter King as cabinet member for building services, highways and transportation.

This is the smallest cabinet that the council has ever had and I am confident that its membership is as strong as ever.

I have taken this continued action in reducing the size of the cabinet because when I became Leader of the council I pledged to reduce the cabinet membership.

Therefore, in 2012 I cut the number from 10 members to seven and last year I reduced it to six.

I have again taken the decision to reduce it further to five members this year. I have done so because it is the right thing to do, particularly as I am tasking staff across the council to make ever greater savings. I believe it is important and appropriate to 'lead by example' by cutting, yet again, the cost of the political leadership within the council.

I know this is a big ask for the five cabinet members, but I have absolute confidence that as a team we can ensure that our priorities can be achieved.

I therefore look forward to the next 11 months of this term of office and am determined that the good work we have carried out so far will continue.

I believe that what has been achieved throughout the Vale is a testament to the pledges we made when we were elected to run the council in 2012 and I know it is a better place now than when we took over.

As a great example, the past month has seen how we continue to provide more with less, in areas such as the next phase of our street lighting strategy.

The first year of the savings strategy, saw street lights being switched off between midnight and 6am. Although it was a difficult decision to take, it is estimated that we have saved around £217,000 and 1,042 tonnes of $C0^2$ emissions.

This substantial, year-on-year saving will now allow us to move to the second part of our strategy and invest in a much more efficient form of LED street lighting.

These LED lights will replace the current lighting units (initially in residential areas) and will be rolled out from this year. As they are highly efficient, they will not then need to be switched off and will revert to full night lighting, but much more economically than using the current conventional lighting units.

This month has also seen great news for our seaside resorts. Five seaside locations in the Vale have received national coast awards, including two prestigious Blue Flag awards, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Seaside Awards 2016.

Whitmore Bay, Barry Island's main beach, and Penarth marina received Blue Flags, while Southerndown, Cold Knap, and Jackson's Bay all scooped rural seaside awards.

Meanwhile, our new annual rental scheme for the Barry Island beach huts sold out within hours of becoming available.

This is yet another sign that the resort is in better shape and more popular than ever.

However, don't despair if you haven't been able to book an annual rental: daily rentals are still available throughout the year, so why not come down and make the most of our fantastic resort.

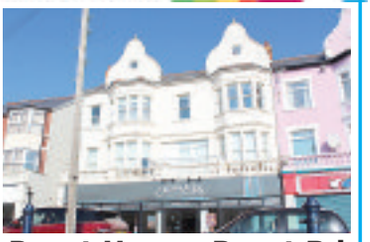
Finally, I would also like to remind you that the first weekend in June offers the perfect opportunity to sample everything that south Wales' premier seaside resort (Barry Island, of course) has to offer with its first ever 'Beats, Eats, and Treats Festival'.

Throughout the weekend, there will be cooking demonstrations from some of Wales' finest chefs, food and drink from the Vale's twin towns, craft stalls, children's entertainment and music provided by Bro Radio, as well as live entertainment.

The two days promise to be excellent fun for all.

I will certainly be in attendance and I look forward to seeing many of you there, as well.

allen & harris



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Sporty pupils excel at Porthcawl school

St Clare's sporting superstars.

ST CLARE'S pupils in Porthcawl have shown they are just as talented on the sports field as they are in the classroom by competing at county or even national levels.

Pictured here are: Connor Brace, Donovan Williams-Hale, Tal Giess, Chris Matthews, Shae McCarthy, Ffion Hier, Rudder Rava, Katie Sinclair, Olivia Thorne, Mila Joseph and Emily Smith.

Jockey, Connor is aiming to be UK champion jockey at 148cm for the second year running. He trains the racehorses before and after school and spends his weekends racing or training. He is 100 per cent committed and gives it his all. Hopefully, we will see him win the big races such as the Grand National and the Gold Cup one day!

Cross-country runner, Donovan won a bronze medal in the Gwent XC league across the season in under-17 age group which covers south Wales and south-west England.

Selected for the second year running to represent south Wales, he also won a silver medal in Glamorgan schools' 800m in Brecon and has been selected to represent Glamorgan schools over 3,000m in upcoming Welsh schools' inter-counties final.

Bridgend goalkeeper, Tal, first started playing for Porthcawl Seasiders in 2013 but in 2015 was invited to have trials for the Bridgend Schools County under-11s and has represented the county all season.

Tal was also invited to join Swansea City development squad under-11s and again has represented them all season. Tal still plays every week for the local Porthcawl Seasiders team.

Cricketer Chris has moved to Neath Cricket Club and plays in the Premier League, the top league in south Wales. Chris recently played for Glamorgan Seconds against Gloucestershire – a great opportunity – and got to keep wicket throughout the three-day game. He was invited to play against Yorkshire, but with exams coming up, it wasn't an option. However, he was asked to play in the Cardiff Eagles (an invitational team made up of some of the best cricketers in the south Wales area) against Millfield first XI.

Footballer Shae was scouted early by Cardiff City and then Swansea City development for under-7. At the start of 2015-16, Shae attended trials for the Bridgend and District Schools under-11 and made the final squad but once again was scouted by Swansea City and invited to attend their under-11 Development Centre.

He has played for Swansea and the District and has settled in well. Shae also plays football at club level with Porthcawl under-11s.

Netball player, Ffion, started playing in junior school and now plays not only for Pontypridd under-17 team but for Cardiff Central adult team too. Ffion was proud to captain the county 'A' team. She has also played for the inter counties 'A' team, where she has recently played both GA (goal attack) and WA (wing attack) against the best teams in Wales.

After a full weekend of matches, her team were crowned Inter Counties Champions 2015/16. Ffion has recently been selected for the under-17 Welsh Development HUB.

Surfer Rudder began surfing at just four years old. Rudder is a member of the Welsh Coast Surf Club and every year they hold the Welsh surfing competitions in Freshwater West in May. Rudder came first for the under-12s, he won a cup, and over £100 worth of prizes.

He will now compete in Cornwall and Porthcawl. His dad is a member of the RNLI and Rudder loves the ocean, loves sharks and marine biology.

Gymnast Katie is a member of the girls' senior novice squad at Penybont Gymnastics Club, where she trains with a coach for nine hours a week (even more if a competition is looming!).

Katie's most recent achievement is a highly commended pass at grade 4 and she is currently training towards her routines for the 12+ novice competition later in the year. Katie has trained as a gymnast for years and has had many successes.

Netball player Olivia plays for the Glamorgan Valleys U14 County Netball squad.

Tennis player Mila has been playing since she was three. Mila trains four times a week and competes regularly and has won a number of competitions at under-8, under-9 and under-10 levels. Mila's most recent success is to be selected to represent south Wales under-10 and will play in the UK Tennis Championships in Shrewsbury at the end of May.

Basketball player Emily is just back from Malta where she played for the Welsh under-14 squad. Emily also plays for the Cynffig Cougars and coaches the under-12 Cougars team.

Regional AM hits at the cost of free prescriptions

REGIONAL AM Suzy Davies has called on the Welsh Government to review why cheap, over the counter medicines are prescribed for free, after figures showed that they spent £5.1m in 2015 giving people paracetamol.

Figures released by Welsh Government showed that each prescription for paracetamol cost the taxpayer £3.51p when they can be bought on the High Street for 26p per 500mg pack.

The figures also revealed that £2.4m was spent prescribing Ibuprofen and £1.9m on aspirin.

The Welsh Conservative regional AM said: "The cost of free prescriptions in Wales now stands at almost £600m a year and, while Welsh Government is prepared to waste money prescribing drugs that are easily and very cheaply available for people to buy, it has been refusing to fund expensive cancer drugs which could literally spell the difference between life and death for cancer sufferers in Wales.

"Where are their priorities? We all agree that many in society should have free prescriptions but this obsession with free prescriptions for all is outdated.

"The more people are aware of the difference in the cost between prescribing everyday drugs and their cost at the chemist or supermarket, the more they will see it as a wasteful way to use NHS resources."

Plans laid for Vale ploughing match

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society recently held its spring meeting at the Six Bells Inn, Penmark.

Chairman Andrew Studley said the most important agenda item was to draft the programme for the ploughing match to be held on Sunday, September 25 at Norton Hall Farm, Ogmore by Sea, by permission of Graham David and family.

The ploughing field is situated on Little West ground, on the road between Ogmore by Sea and Southerndown and good parking is available for the public.

Entrance at the gate will be £5 and members of the Ferguson Club will have free entry.

All entries must be submitted to the secretary at least 10 days prior to the match. All classes will be the same as last year with the proviso that if no more than two competitors are in any one class only two prizes will be awarded.

Sponsorship is being sought to add to those companies who have already booked places on the field.

Further information about the ploughing match and membership of the Society can be obtained from the chairman on 07980 921990.

BG

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

A 'LIFE-CHANGER' FOR YOUNG TILLY... All thanks to The Jam Fund!

Before 'RTC Safety Surfaces of Burnley' had moved in to do the job in the Davies's back garden. Paul Adamson of The Jam Fund said: "The company was excellent and negotiated the cost with me as it was a charity funded job. Other companies were quoting me upwards of £10,000, but they did it for just £6,000."

And after two days of hard work it now looks like this... Tilly and Maisy and their friends have a lovely play area.

by GEM REPORTER

THE gift of a £6,000 play area for a seven-year-old Barry girl will be "life-changing" her parents have told The GEM.

Tilly Davies has cerebral palsy and is unable to stand or walk unaided. But the determined little girl is able to move around quickly on her backside using her arms and one of her great pleasures is playing out in the garden.

Tilly's parents Danii and and Dave were "thrilled" when The Jam Fund stepped in to fund a special, soft play surface for Tilly.

The beauty of it is that unlike grass, the rubberised surface dries within half an hour of the rain stopping, and unlike concrete and grass, her clothes aren't torn or made dirty.

Danii said: "It was a wonderful thing for Paul of The Jam Fund to do in memory of his son, Jamie. It is life-changing for Tilly and us. She has gained so much in terms of her independence."

It means Danii can let Tilly go out into the garden safe in the knowledge that she will be playing in a safe environment.

Dave said: "The play surface is so comfortable – we can't thank Paul enough."

Tilly and sister Maisy (5) go to Palmerston Primary School which Danii says is "amazing" in its care for Tilly.

Tilly was born early, at 28 weeks, and weighed just 1lb 13oz. She needed a heart operation and laser eye surgery. A bleed to her brain resulted in cerebral palsy.

Danii said: "Whenever Tilly is asked what she wants to do in life, she says: '*Walk on my own like all my friends*'.

"This can be quite heartbreaking as her mum, but if Tilly has taught me anything in her little life it's that you can do anything if you put your mind to it and to never ever give up!

"Tilly's cerebral palsy is not typical. She doesn't have much stiffness and is extremely low tone – this is why we are trying to raise funds so that we can pay for specialist physiotherapy treatment and any equipment Tilly might need to help her achieve her wish to walk."

Tilly's grandparents bought a special walking frame costing £1,800 and physiotherapy costs £168 an hour.

If people would like to make a donation to help Tilly, they should go to the following link: http://just4children.org/children-helped-2016/tillys-wish-to-walk/

Paul Adamson of The Jam Fund said: "The fund is able to help children like Tilly thanks to the commitment of those who support us.

"There are people like the Townsend and Lewis families, of Barry and Rhoose, who collectively raised over £5,000 in support of the fund at events in Rhoose and Sully.

"We have just been awarded a grant of £1,000 from the HQ of the One Stop chain of supermarkets because Viv, the manager of the One Stop store in Winston Road kindly nominated us.'

Paul, who supported in the fund's work by wife Denise, added: "The Jam Fund is seeking team members for the Cardiff University Half Marathon in October.

"Team vests and sponsorship forms are provided and we don't ask people to raise huge sums in sponsorship – £100 is great.

"I can be contacted at this e mail address and that the charity website JAM fund index has examples of how previous donations have been spent.

To contact Paul, go to: jamfund@sky.com; for more information go to:www.jamfund.co.uk.

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- MID TERRACE
- CENTRAL LOCATION
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- MID TERRACE PROPERTY
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- MID TERRACE
- MODERNISING REQUIRED
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- NO CHAIN

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Remembering the local men lost at Battle of Jutland...

ON May 31, it will be exactly 100 years since the British Grand Fleet and the German High Seas Fleet clashed in the North Sea at the Battle of Jutland.

This huge sea battle involving 274 warships, manned by over 70,000 sailors was the only time during the First World War that the main fleets of both nations fought each other.

In the early hours of May 31, 1916, the German fleet, under Admiral Scheer (consisting of 27 capital ships, plus over 80 light cruisers and destroyers) began a sweep along the Danish coast.

Alerted by German radio traffic the British Grand Fleet (consisting of 28 battleships and three battlecruisers) under Admiral Jellicoe, sailed from Scapa Flow while another force (consisting of six battlecruisers plus four battleships) under Admiral Beatty, sailed from Rosyth.

By mid afternoon, Beatty's force made contact with the German fleet and at 15.45 the battlecruisers of both fleets opened fire.

The British battlecruisers were built for speed, but to obtain this speed protective armour had to be sacrificed. This would now cause major problems.

The battlecruiser *HMS Indefatigable* received five hits in quick succession. The shells smashing through the lightly armoured decks caused a huge explosion which broke her in two.

Out of her crew of 1,133 men, only six survived. Among those killed were: engine room artificer William Thomas Watkins aged 21, the son of Mr and Mrs JW Watkins of 29 Dock St, Penarth. Also leading stoker Alfred John Harvey, son of Matthew and Elizabeth Harvey of 1 Riverside. (Alfred's younger brother Phillip also served at Jutland as a stoker aboard the battlecruiser *HMS New Zealand*. He would survive the war only to die of pneumonia in a naval hospital in February 1919.)

Just over 20 minutes after the sinking of the *Indefatigable*, the battlecruiser, *HMS Queen Mary* received several hits, exploded and sank in just 90 seconds. A huge 800 ft high tower of smoke marked where she had once been.

Only 20 men survived from a crew of 1,286. Among those killed were: ordinary seaman Charles Clifford Roberts from Millbrook Road, Dinas Powys and gunner William George Bwye, Royal Marine Artillery aged 21, son of Robert Bwye, 28 King Street, Penarth.

Sadly, 13 months after William's death Robert Bwye would receive notification informing him that William's younger brother Frank had been killed in France serving with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

Admiral Beatty now began to manoeuvre his ships north so that the Germans would follow him to where Jellicoe's more powerful fleet were waiting in ambush. At 18.14, Jellicoe received news of the position of the German Fleet and began to deploy his ships in battle formation.

Unfortunately, the 1st Cruiser Squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Robert Arbuthnot, consisting of the old armoured cruisers *HMS Defence, HMS Duke of Edinburgh and HMS Warrior* found themselves positioned between the two fleets.

These old ships were no match for modern German dreadnoughts and were soon being battered by German shells. *HMS Defence* was sunk with the loss of 903 men including Rear Admiral Arbuthnot, along with two Barry men: able seaman signaller Charles Edward Kirby aged 18 from, Amherst Crescent and able seaman Walter John Down from Kathleen Street.

Admiral Scheer now realised he was facing the full might of the British fleet and was completely outgunned. However, when the battlecruiser *HMS Invincible* suddenly became illuminated by an improvement in visibility several shells were fired at her and one of them penetrated Q turret causing a massive explosion. 1,026 men were killed in an instant.

Among them, Admiral Horace Hood and the last two Barry men to die in the battle: able seaman Robert Wills Davies 26, formerly of Kingsland Crescent and engineer artificer third class Thomas James Phillips aged 24, son of Captain John Phillips the Barry harbour pier master, who lived at 54 Court Road.

Under the cover of smokescreens and destroyer attacks, Admiral Scheer headed his battered fleet back to port. In the failing light, Jellicoe decided not to follow and so the battle came to an inconclusive end.

The Germans claimed victory as they had sunk three British battlecruisers, three armoured cruisers and eight destroyers with the loss of 6,094 British sailors. Compared to this, the Germans had lost one battlecruiser, one old battleship, four light cruisers and five destroyers – losing 2,551 men.

Two days after the battle the British fleet had been refuelled, had its ammunition replenished and was ready for further action. The German fleet, however, remained bottled up in port never to venture out for the rest of the war.

For the Germans, a hollow victory indeed.

ALUN ROBERTSON
Barry at War group

WI Federation's AGM attracts 500 members

THE Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes held its annual council meeting on May 10 at Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot.

Over 500 members attended from WIs across the county. Mrs Carolyn Davies, Chairman, welcomed the guests, who included Mrs Rhian Connick, head of NFWI Wales; Lisa Howells, NFEW Wales; Hilda Jane Jenkins, Ann Newton, Shena Sarjeant, Mavis Tieurney, representatives from Gwent Federation; the holding trustees and past Federation chairmen.

Mrs Clare Atherton presented the financial report and this was followed by guest speaker, Mrs Daphne Furneaux, a Chelsea Gold Medal winner for floral art who treated the members to a fabulous flower demonstration.

Mrs Carolyn Davies, who is retiring as Glamorgan Federation chair, he thanked everyone for their support and reflected on the last year when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the WI.

She presented the Chairman's Plate to Mrs Daphne Furneaux, and thanked her for her long service and support.

Mrs Emma Leeke was the second guest of the morning and she spoke about her family history, the development of their business, and her role in their retail industry.

Members of Margam WI Ukulele Band, who only started to play in the last six weeks, sent everyone to lunch with a smile and a song!

The second session began with the introduction of the new board members and the presentation of awards, certificates and cups. The speaker for the afternoon was Mr John Benjamin, a gemologistexpert on antique jewellery and a presenter on The Antiques Roadshow.

He enthralled the members as he talked about his early career and experiences in the jewellery world and his explanation of the history of gems and the making of jewellery was fascinating.

Most of the members admitted to being fans of Antiques Roadshow and enjoyed listening to some of the stories behind the more unusual 'finds' and about the filming of the series.

A very successful council meeting ended with the singing of the anthems.

JE

WI issues an invite to new members

RÏOSEMARY BISHOP, one of our members, came along and gave us a demonstration in making cards.

The May afternoon meeting was a film show with music.

Fred Davies, who took up photography as a hobby at a young age put together a film show of photos and scenes to music. He donates all his proceeds to a charity Health Help International, which helps families in India.

Thursday afternoon every week, we have a knit and natter afternoon. Our ladies knit, sew and natter over a cuppa and a biscuit. We have just finished 13 lap blankets for the ladies of College Fields.

We also do a lot of knitting for Velindre hospital – Easter chicks, and they then sell them to raise money for the cancer charity.

We held two meetings in April: the first one was our Link meeting.

Other WIs in the area joined us for entertainment and refreshments.

We were entertained by Changing Scenes. This is a local children's group who put on a show entitled 'War Songs'.

The children came dressed like evacuees. They sang and danced and our ladies enjoyed themselves as they could sing along with them.

Our second meeting was our annual meeting. Our president of 14 years, June Davies, stood down and a new president was elected.

Barbara Bowring was elected as our new president.

The May evening meeting was fish and chips and a silent auction.

On The Queen's 90th birthday we celebrated by holding a tea party and had a royal quiz and music.

We are a very active WI. Why not come along and find out for yourselves? Information from secretary Jeanette Chilcott on 01446 410139.

JC

100 YEARS AGO... Double tragedy for Dinas Powys mum

MAY 31, 2016 was the 100th anniversary of the First World War Battle of Jutland. The battle brought sudden tragedy for many wives and mothers throughout the UK, but none more so than for Nellie Roberts of Mayfield in Dinas Powys.

In a move to destroy part of the British Grand Fleet led by Admiral Jellicoe, and to loosen the blockade which the Royal Navy had imposed on Germany, Vice Admiral Scheer of the German High Fleet sought an engagement off the coast of Denmark.

Two hundred and fifty ships were involved – the British losing 14 and the Germans 11. Both sides claimed victory. The German fleet stayed largely in port for the rest of the war, but remained an ever present threat.

Nellie's young son Charles Clifford Roberts had joined the Navy as a 15-year-old in 1912, serving as a boy sailor at the shore base *HMS Ganges* in Suffolk.

Aged 18, he became an Able Seaman on the 27,000 ton battleship *HMS Queen Mary* which fought at Jutland.

At 4.26pm a shell from the German battle cruiser *Derfflinger* struck *Queen Mary,* detonating one or both of her forward magazines.

The resulting explosion split the *Queen Mary* in half near her foremast.

As the after-part of the ship began to roll, it was rocked by a large explosion before sinking.

Of *Queen Mary's* crew, 3,266 perished, while just 20 were rescued.

Among those drowned was 19-year-old Charles.

The commander of the ship, Harry Pennell, who had captained the *Terra Nova* from Cardiff on Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1912, also perished.

The following year, Charles' father lost his life when his merchant ship the *Redesmere* was sunk by U-boat UB40 off St Catherine's Point, the Isle of Wight.

So Nellie lost her only son and her husband, both at sea, within an 18-month period, and her daughter Betsey lost both her brother and father.

As well as on the war memorial in Dinas Powys, young Charles is commemorated on the Royal Navy memorial in Portsmouth, one of so many young men whose lives were sacrificed in that most tragic of conflicts which was the First World War.

DEREK BRUSHETT

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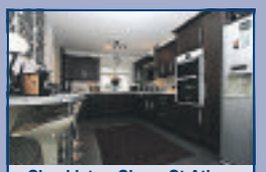

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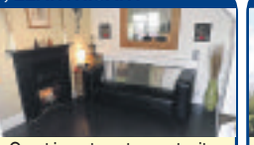

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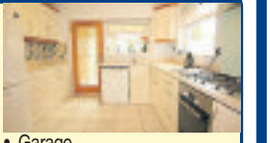

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(Figures correct as of April 2016)

Family Notices

CLARK
Ruby Myrtle

Peacefully passed away at home on Wednesday, May 25. Ruby, aged 93, originally born in Nottage, Porthcawl, residing in Llantwit Major. Wife of the late Jim Cross and Bill Clark, dearly loved mum to Patricia and Eileen, mother-in-law to Derek and Tony. Much loved grandmother to Andrew, David, Joanne and the late John and great grandmother to Hannah.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Home until the funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Friday, June 3 at 1.15pm. Donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

TAPSCOTT
Angela

Norma and Raymond regret to advise that after a long hard battle, their daughter Angela passed away on Friday, 20 May in Wanstead, London.

Angela was the wife of Glyn Protheroe, mother of Daisy and Isabella, sister of Michael and partner Paula. Angela will be interred in London, which has been her home for the past 30 years.

MAYO
Elaine (Née Smith)

Suddenly on May 9 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Elaine of Llantwit Major, dearly beloved wife of Wayne and a devoted mother and grandmother.

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Thursday, June 2, in St Illtud's Church at 10.30am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

BRITTON
David 'Dave'

David Britton sadly, but peacefully, passed away, aged 71, at the Waverly Care Home, formerly of Broughton Place, Barry. Much loved husband of Carol, cherished father to David, John and Tracy, special father-in-law to Racheal and Tracey, a special grandad to Aimee, Geraint, Anthony, Richard, Ryan, Alex, Bethan, Josh, Ashton and five great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Dave is resting at The Vale Funeral Services, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at St David's Methodist Church, Colcot, Barry, on June 2 at 1.45pm followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

For further enquiries, please contact Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

JOHN
Leighton Treharne (aka Bones)

It is with great sadness that the family announce the unexpected death of Leighton on May 16. Son of the late Howell and Gwyneth, brother of Brian and Vanessa, father of Jason, Christian, Keely and friend of many.

Bones will be greatly missed.

Resting at Thomas Brothers, a celebration of his life will be held in Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Tuesday, May 31 at 1.15pm. Colourful ties/scarves/cravats are requested.

Family flowers only - donations to SCOPE can be made if desired to www.justgiving.com/ForBones. Donations may also be given at the Plough and Harrow.

MULLAN
Philip

Peacefully on May 19 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Philip, beloved husband of Sylvia, much loved dad and grampy.

Philip will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until being received into St Helen's Church, Barry on Wednesday, May 25 at 4pm.

Funeral service to take place Thursday, May 26 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only – by request, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to British Heart Foundation in memory of Philip.

Further information contact Lyndsay Ellis on 01446 407962.

HUMPHREY
Dorothy Jean

Suddenly on May 22 in the University Hospital of Wales, after along illness very bravely borne, Dorothy, aged 87 years, of Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Gordon, much loved mum of Judith and mother-in-law of Gary.

She will be greatly missed by all her loving family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the funeral home chapel on Monday, June 6 at 1.45pm, afterwards to Barry Cemetery. Flowers or donations to Arthritis Research UK may be sent to the funeral home.

DAVIES
Ewan Sorton

Peacefully on Wednesday May 18, Ewan Sorton of Barry - retired deputy headteacher of Cynffig Comprehensive School, Kenfig Hill. Much loved uncle of Helen and Ruth and great uncle of Rachel, Matthew, Jonathan and Benjamin.

Funeral to be held on Monday, June 6 at 12 noon at the funeral home chapel of A.G. Adams & Son, Gladstone Road, Barry, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to Crossroads.

ROWLANDS
Clive

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on May 18. Dearly loved husband of Ann, a loving dad to all of his children and adored bampy.

Clive will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

Resting at R.D. Johnson Independent Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry until his funeral service on Thursday, June 2 at Bethel Baptist Church, Park Crescent at 1pm, followed by cremation at 2pm at the Vale of Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry. Family flowers only. Donations in memory of Clive to Macmillan Cancer Support, which will be collected at the service. No black to be worn please.

CHARLES
Iris Winifred

Peacefully on May 11 at home, Iris Winifred, aged 86 years, of Barry Island. Previously of Dorothy Lewis Care Home and originally of Atlas Road, Canton, Cardiff.

Iris will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Monday, June 6. Funeral service at St John's Church, Canton, Cardiff at 11am, followed by cremation at Thornhill Crematorium, Briwnant Chapel at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to A.G. Adams & Son or, if desired, by Iris' request, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Guide Dogs Trust.

THOMAS
Ronwyn Joy (Née Hayes)

Peacefully, at her home surrounded by all her loving family on May 18, Ron of Broad Street, Barry. Dearly beloved wife of Wyn, much loved mum of Gill, Pam, Gaynor, Lyn and Trish, a much loved mother-in-law, adored nan of 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until her funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, May 31 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan crematorium, Barry at 12 noon.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care (Holme Towers), Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR. Black attire optional.

Acknowledgements

LALANDE
Andrew

Thank you to all the family and friends that took the time to attend Andrew Lalande's funeral on Thursday, May 19. It was much appreciated, sorry we did not get the chance to speak to you all.

GRAY
Richard Crothers

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by all his family, on May 24, at ITU, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Richie, of Llantwit Major, beloved husband of Etta, loving father of Mike, Gavin and Jon, much loved by all his grandchildren and family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, June 2, service 2pm at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

CHARLES
Barbara

In loving memory of our loving mum and nanny who peacefully passed away on May 9. Much loved and missed by Lynne, Ken, David, Rob, Dominique, Sarah and Stephen.

Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Tuesday, May 31 at 12 noon, afterwards at The Angel in Mawdlem.

Situations Vacant

The Beech Tree Inn
Culverhouse Cross
requires
SENIOR CHEF DE PARTIE
with experience of fish & grill sections. Competitive salary with great prospects going forward. Fantastic opportunity!
Must have own transport.
Please phone 02920 593106

Groundworkers/ Mini Digger Operators required
Experience preferred, any age considered, CIS scheme, wage negotiable for right person. Long term work in Cardiff.
Contact Wayne on 07967 591857 or w_maguire@sky.com

Churchfields Homecare
CARERS REQUIRED
For immediate start to be part of our friendly team.
Tel: 01446 405175

Property

Company looking for 3-4 bedroom homes in the area for long term rent
Call 02032 394836

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If we do not have an immediate vacancy in your area, your details will be placed on our waiting list until a suitable opportunity occurs.

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Notice

REWARD FOR INFORMATION
as to the whereabouts of a silver Peugeot Partner Combi. Small van type vehicle with side windows and double rear doors, involved in hit and run in Richard Street, Barry recently.
Please phone 07930 640877

Articles For Sale

Fischer Future Heater
Novo HI JW 800 Watts Bathroom Storage heater
Cost £1,255 Mar 2015
£500 ono.
01446 792126

Collective set of 6 bronze waterloo coins - £100.
Ladies biker jacket £40.
Ladies biker boots £20.
01446 401374
After 6pm. Barry. 21/22

One Zanussi Double Oven Ceramic Hob Cooker (1 year old). £175 ono.
01656 652058
07840 807226 21/22

M&S solid wooden extending table, 6 chairs, wipe clean cream seats & sideboard.
Rosewood coloured, VGC - £150. Barry.
01446 410231 21/22

Tower Scaffolding
New galvanised 6ft x 4ft, 20ft working height. Complete with safety rails, cross braces, ideal for builders or DIY.
£259
Free delivery.
07836 270723 21/22

Excellent four wheel mobility scooter & charger. Triumph Lark. Needs new batteries.
£200 ono. Collection only. Barry.
01446 413162 21/22

GUITAR AMP
Laney TF300 Tube Fusion. 3 channel with 2 overdrive channels, box reverb. £55
01446 775810 22

Downsizing Buyology solid oak sideboard
5ft wide with separate glazed dresser top
Total height 6ft 8"
£300
Buyology solid oak three drawer desk
3ft 7" wide
£140
All purchased last year and as new
01446 701506 22/23

FOR SALE
Acer 14" Laptop, Windows 10, unwanted gift. Still in sealed box.
£180 ono.
Karcher 120 Bar Pressure Washer K3.575. Little used with T.Racer and much much more.
Bargain £140
01446 794510 22/23

Rise and recline chair, good working order
£59 ono.
High perch on stool
£10
A double glazed half glass outside back door with white frame. Ht 286cm x 83cm wide. Frame 240cm x 92cm
£25
Collection only
01446 719350 21/22

1 x 3 seater & 1 x 2 seater sofas In VGC
£25 each
Brand new UPVC Double glazed windows inc glass, various sizes
£25 each Barry
01446 736392
07904 930008 22/23

Number Plate
ROI 2932
£350 ono
Barry
07533 498950
22/23

Motors For Sale

Hyundai i10 1.2
62 Plate, 18,000 miles
Under warranty Sept 2017
Met Stardust Grey, A/C
Elec windows, p/steering
Excellent condition. After 6pm.
£3,995
02920 593423 21

Ford KA 2002
1.3 in Silver, New brakes and oil sump, Ideal first car, Llantwit Major
£600 ono.
07772 425997
07951 168293 22

VW Passat July 2010
Diesel 1.9
GC
95,000 miles
07973 139865 22

Renault Megane Convertible
2007, 1.6 Petrol in Silver
Recent MOT/Service
52k miles in good condition
£1,700 ONO
07973 336005 21

Land Rover Freelander
1.8 Petrol, 56,000 miles
2005 in Grey, 3 door.
GC, MOT August
£2,499 ono.
07780 332962 22

'Happy 100th birthday' from the Vale Mayor!

The Mayor, with Mr John Wilcox and his children, Robert, Christine and Gillian.

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Stuart Egan, visited Mr John Wilcox at Springbank Nursing Home in Barry last week, to wish him very many congratulations on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr Wilcox, who was born in Cardiff but has lived in Penarth all his life, has been a resident of Springbank for just three years. A retired medical storeman, he was a proficient cyclist, moped enthusiast and also a talented woodworker. The Mayor presented him with a book on the Vale of Glamorgan.

Music students impress at festival

Jack Ollier.

MUSICstudents who receive lessons from Barry-based teacher Jo Weaving, recently took part in this year's South Glamorgan Festival For Young Musicians.

Isobelle Lambert, Olivia Kaunhoven and Tabitha Hughes, all from Barry, performed to an extremely high level in the intermediate piano class, receiving excellent feedback from adjudicator, Beate Toyka.

Jack Ollier performed to a high standard in both the young recitalist class and intermediate piano class.

Jack went on to be placed both first and second in the intermediate woodwind class, performing on recorder and clarinet.

He was then invited to perform in the festival gala concert in Cardiff, where he was awarded the prize for 'most promising woodwind performer' from across the whole of the festival competition.

Dinas' art exhibition gets bigger and better

DINAS POWYS Art Group, now in its 22nd year, will be holding its annual exhibition at the Parish Hall on June 11- 12 from 10am–4pm.

Feedback last year was extremely positive, with many comments about the high quality of the artwork and the range of subjects.

This year there will be some new features to appeal to an even wider audience:

In addition to a wide variety of original paintings, there will be a selection of personal images of Dinas Powys, perfect for anyone looking for a picture with local connections;

There will be crafts for sale, created by members of the group;

There will be a table of materials for children to create their own artwork under parental supervision.

As well as giving group members a chance to show their work, the exhibition raises funds for charity. This year there will be a donation from sales towards an electric wheelchair for nine-year-old Noah Gee, who has severe cerebral palsy.

Noah's grandparents, Roy and Gill have been active members of the art group for many years and are helping the fundraising efforts for Noah.

Admission to the exhibition is £1 for adults, including a drink, and children can come in free of charge. Children particularly enjoy getting involved in voting for the 'People's Choice' of favourite painting.

To find out more about the group,and to get a preview of some of the work to be exhibited, visit the website at: www.dinaspowysartgroup.org.uk. **SB**

ValePlus hosts garden party

VALEPLUS, the local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is hosting a garden party at its centre in High Street, Barry, on Friday, June 10 between 1.30pm and 4pm.

The party will celebrate the 90th birthday of the Queen, and the official opening of the new garden after its makeover this spring.

There will be stalls, music, barbecue, cream teas and a raffle. Tickets (£5) available from Nova, Cafe No 5 or by contacting the chapel on 01446 746691.

Barry town Mayor is inaugurated

BARRY Town Council recently held their annual meeting and inauguration of the town Mayor in the Memorial Hall and Theatre, Barry.

Coun Charlotte Williams was elected as Mayor and her consort is Dr Gareth Williams. Coun Karl Kuhnell was elected as Deputy Mayor and his consort will be Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

Father Ben Andrews of St Mary's Church will act as the Mayor's chaplain during her term of office.

The Mayor has nominated The Down Syndrome Association Wales, Life after Stroke Service and Breast Cancer Now as the charities she wishes to support during her term of office.

'Memory of Lesley will live on' – Vale AM

THE Vale AM Jane Hutt has paid tribute to ovarian cancer campaigner Lesley Woolcock, who died last week.

She said: "It was a privilege to have known Lesley. We first met when she was working as a teaching assistant at Oakfield Primary School and later through her vital work raising awareness of the importance of early diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Her wonderful memory and remarkable fundraising legacy will live on."

WI looks back on anniversary year

THE Rhoose WI held its annual meeting on May 12 at the Community Hall, when president Jenny Reed introduced WI adviser Caroline Davies who oversaw the election of the new committee and officers.

Business began with members voting on the two resolutions put forward by the NFWI. Both of these: Appropriate Hospital Care for Dementia Sufferers, and The Avoidance of Food Waste, were unanimously supported by members.

Officers' reports followed: treasurer Susan Grant reported on a busy, but successful financial year. Secretary Stella Hughes gave the committee report in which she mentioned successful fundraising events, and activities held by the Institute.

The president recalled that 2015 had been the 70th anniversary of Rhoose WI and this had been celebrated with an anniversary dinner when Rhoose members had been presented with commemorative brooches as a memento.

She thanked committee members for their hard work. She also thanked retiring committee member, Sue Hamer, for her support in organising knitting lessons for pupils at Rhoose School.

Pam Jupp gave a vote of thanks to the committee, after which the president handed the chair of the meeting to the WI adviser. Mrs Davies began with a short talk on Denman College, at which the NFWI provides courses and activities for WI members.

As the Wales and Shropshire co-ordinator for the Save Denman Appeal, Mrs Davies voiced concerns that the Grade ll listed building is in urgent need of repair. The national membership is to be asked to support the appeal for two years.

The committee and officers were all elected unanimously, with the president, secretary and treasurer remaining in post.

The competition was won by Ray Reynolds and the raffle by Pat Richards.

The next meeting will be held on June 2 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when the speaker, Sharone William, will talk about 'Health and Wellbeing'.

New members and visitors will be welcome. **JJ**

Penarth Grow Show Share event is back!

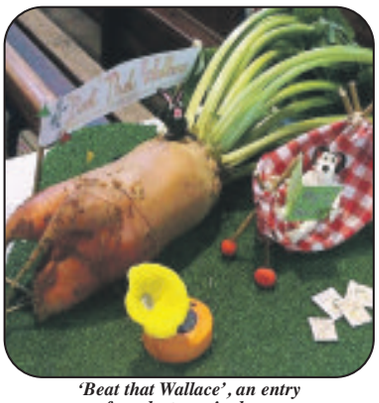
LAST year, many visitors were delighted with this unusual event which demonstrated how much is grown, made and created in Penarth.

It is back again over the weekend of July 9-10 in St Augustine's Church (the first week of the Penarth Festival).

Friends of St Augustine's who are behind this fun, quirky event are encouraging people to 'sign up' now if they would like to take part.

Entries can be anything to do with growing – fruit, vegetables, flowers, craft, preserves, poems, and more. Children are being asked to create miniature gardens.

The organisers, Friends of St Augustine's, said of the event: "Some of the entries last year were very imaginative, others demonstrated how much is grown in the town, and many just made you smile – it was a really uplifting event and helped remind us all that Penarth really is 'The Garden by the Sea'."



'Beat that Wallace', an entry from last year's show.

Anyone wanting to enter, should email: friendsofstaugustinespenarth@yahoo.co.uk; call 02920 707828 or go to: www.friendsofstaugustines.org.uk for details.

Barry Sea Cadets launch new dinghy

Barry Sea Cadets recently launched its new RS Quest Dinghy.

THE Barry Sea Cadets unit, headed up by PO Crapnell, launched its new RS Quest Dinghy, donated through funding by the Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust and the Reardon Smith Nautical Trust.

Lt Charles Reardon Smith RN Ret. was present at the launch and was thanked for the trust's kind support by PO Crapnell.

It was then down to two lucky junior cadets and two senior cadets to have the maiden voyage at the Barry Community Water Activity Centre where Barry Sea Cadets meet on a Tuesday and Thursday evening (subject to weather) to hone their skills in kayaking, motor boat and sailing.

Barry Sea Cadets is open to all children aged 10-18 and as a Sea Cadet, children will test their talents and stamina and develop new skills to give them a head start in life. They will also get the chance to make new friends and have fun.

If you would like to join, call 07954286675 or email barryseacadets@gmail.com.

Garden to mark 'volunteers week'

BARRY Community Garden is open to the public on Friday, June 10, to celebrate the hard work of its volunteers and to welcome those interested in volunteering.

The garden, managed by Newydd Housing Association, is open to the public from 10am to 2pm.

The event will celebrate Volunteers Week which was established in 1984 and recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day.

The garden, located just off Dyfnallt Road next to Pencoedtre Splash Park at the end of Cynan Close, Barry, is open on Mondays from 10am-4pm and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm. Twenty volunteers regularly meet to learn about gardening and help out with activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, come down to our open day or contact Lisa Williams on 07501 468694.

Junior Disney show

THE junior section of Barry-based Billboard Ensemble will present Disney's *Alice In Wonderland Junior* at Dinas Powys Parish Hall on June 2-4.

Performances at 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2.30pm on Saturday, June 4. Tickets from 07538 000180.

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Porthcawl RFC holds end of season awards

PORTHCAWL RFC recently held their presentation evening and the following awards were handed out: Captain - Richard Hnyda; rising star - Jak Robbins; most improved player - Anthony Griffiths; player's player of the year - Gareth Rees; player of the year - James Burge-Davies.

TW

HOLTON ROAD AFC SAYS THANKS TO S J BUILDING

Holton Road under-7s in their new football kit.

HOLTON ROAD under-7s would like to say a massive thank you to Steve and Kate and their team at S J Building for supplying us with our new football kits and training jackets, for their football season and match day experience at Cardiff City.

S J Building is a local, family business and have been providing services for over 12 years throughout the areas of Barry, and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Local sponsors are the lifeblood of grassroots football, and without them, many sides wouldn't be able to offer children the opportunity of developing in football.

Holton Road are currently recruiting for the following ages in readiness for next season (under-12s and under-16s). We also provide a soccer school for children from the ages three to six. Please email holtonroadafc@hotmail.com for more details.

OM

Barry RFC end season with win

Ashley Adams' pass from Brad White resulted in a try for Barry.

BARRY RFC ended their season on a high last week with a win over Club Rygbi Caerdydd, a result that sees them finish in third place in the league.

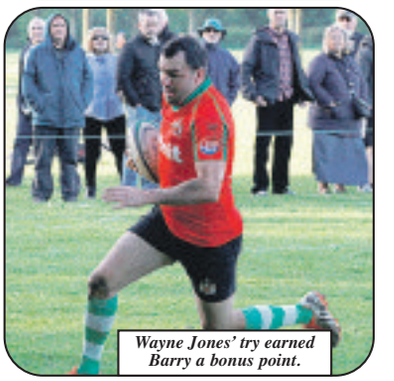
HOWARD POOLE was on hand to capture the action from the season's finale, and the club will be looking forward to next season having achieved so much this year.

The winning numbers for last week's Mega Lottery were 2, 4, 17 and 20, which failed to produce a winner - this week's prize will be £2,040.

AJ

Brad White.

Alyn Evans.



Wayne Jones' try earned Barry a bonus point.

Hockey veterans in seven goal thriller

PENARTH Hockey Club's veterans XI continue to put competitive minutes under their belt in preparation for another crack at the prestigious Welsh Masters title in June.

Gwent became just the second veterans side to visit Penarth's new home at Stanwell School, but were only able to do so after calling on some 'under-age' talent to make up the numbers.

The home team held the upper hand for much of the opening half, with Marc Sawyer eventually finishing off a slick passing move that began in defence.

Having gone ahead, Penarth continued to play with confidence, and quickly added a second as Craig Llewellyn fired home an improvised penalty corner, but were fortunate to take to their two-goal advantage into the interval.

The visitors were not to be denied, however, and pulled a goal back within a minute of the restart.

Spurred on by their early success, the visitors quickly pulled level as the hosts were again found wanting in the middle of the park.

The home side finally retook the lead as Dave Watkins produced a trademark finish, but again had to withstand renewed Gwent pressure from the restart.

The resistance could not last forever, and the scores were soon levelled again as the home side began feeling the effects of their earlier efforts.

Not for the first time, the Vale side then proved unable to see the game through to a shared conclusion, allowing Gwent a half-chance that, with just a minute left on the clock, was to prove decisive in a 4-3 scoreline.

The encounter with Gwent was just the latest in a run of fixtures for the veterans side. The side has already taken on old foe Whitchurch as well as taking part in a three-way contest hosted by Swansea and featuring touring side Grays of Cambridge as they made their first appearance in Wales.

The 1-4 scoreline against Whitchurch did not reflect the balance of play on the night with several key players, missing.

The triangular tournament proved to be another matter, however, with the opening day's fixtures against both Swansea and Grays both resulting in heavy defeats for the Vale club.

The scorelines did not necessarily reflect the part that Penarth played in both games.

The Grizzlies returned to play Grays for a second time on Sunday morning, and produced a much improved performance, albeit suffering a late defeat.

CL

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for May 17:

1st Mark Roderick & Mike Best 63.69%; =2nd Kay Dyer & Noelle Bond 55.73%; =2nd Peter Millar and Jenny Vaughan 55.73%. Vivien Liles and Sam Fellows won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592, or visit the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

Panthers sign off with draw against Athletic

PORTHKERRY Panthers under-15s played their last competitive football match on the Buttrills field on Saturday, May 14, before disbanding.

Ironically that game was against their local rivals since day one, Barry Athletic, who still had an outside chance of winning the league.

The match was very competitive, as it always has been with these two sides and played in the usual fantastic spirit with bragging rights available for the last time between friends.

This game did not disappoint and the Panthers started slowly. The Athletic had the better of the first half, without creating too many chances, the best effort from them came from a long range effort from Evan Wells that came off the bar.

The opportunity of the first half came from an in-swinging corner taken from the impressive Jack Shewring which was headed off the line by his Panthers team mate Jack Stokes, who also saw a long range effort skim the bar.

The second half was very even with the Athletic's danger man Harry Edwards forcing the Panthers keeper Ben Wallace into a fine save to keep the scores level.

The Panthers were making some last-ditch tackles to keep the Athletic at bay with both Olly White and man of the match Rhys Everitt blocking everything thrown at them.

The Panthers were creating chances however with Jack Cummings shooting just wide from distance and Ben Hayes seeing a one on one go just wide.

Jacob Morgan and Iwan Hadfield were growing into this game with both shots saved by Matthew Mayer. Will Drew and Sam Hopkins were determined not to be on the losing side against their former club while captain Ben Jones covered every blade of grass.

The Athletic had the majority of the possession but with just minutes left the Panthers were awarded a free-kick just outside the box and maybe - just maybe - there would be a last minute twist.

As Callum Bellemy was suspended, the resultant free-kick, taken by Jack Shewring, found its way into the top corner only for a wonder save from Matthew Mayer to deny the Panthers their last ever win.

The Panthers had to settle for their first ever 0-0 draw in their last ever league game which was a fitting way to end. Congratulations to Cogan for the double this year!

The Panthers management would like to thank all the boys for their efforts not just this year but over the last 10 years.

Best wishes go to past Panthers players Adam Davies, Lloyd Perkins, Declan Edwards, Joe Mellars and many more for all the wonderful memories of past days gone by.

RJ

Under-19s thank sponsors

BARRY Town United under-19s would like to thank all their sponsors who made the 2015/2016 season possible.

The under-19s have played in the Welsh League Youth Division East for the past three seasons, which has been a great experience for all involved.

Home kit sponsors Robert Price and BRT International have sponsored the team for the last three years and the players and coaches would like to thank them for their continued support.

BRT international director, Tony Yeo, said: "We have been proud to be able to sponsor the boys for the past three years and glad we can help youth development within the community."

Molly Pike from Robert Price commented: "As a local company it has been great to sponsors Barry Town under-19s knowing we have been able to help local talent play at a high level."

Away kit sponsors Scott Pallets and M&M Coachworks have both come on board this season and without the support of all these local businesses the team would not be able to compete at this level.

It is the last season for a lot of the players and the coaches would like to thank Barry Town United for giving them the opportunity to be part of this great club and wish the club the very best for the future.

NO

NFU Mutual charity golf at Southerndown

THE NFU Mutual Charity Golf Day was held recently at Southerndown Golf Club, with 37 teams taking part, and raised £4,000 that will be going towards the Velindre Cancer Care Centre's "Ride the Rockies" campaign.

Julian Kelly, the senior agent, shall be participating on this in September and trying to raise in excess of £10,000 towards this amazing campaign.

Results: Ladies individual winner Mrs Claire Davies with 38 stableford points; runner-up Mrs Norma Barber with 29 points; longest drive – Mrs Sarah Morris.

Men's individual winner Jon Sinclair with 39 points;

runner-up Darren James with 37 points; third place Mr Lloyd James with 37 points.

Team event: Ladies with 93 points – Southerndown ladies A team, men's with 120 points – Sinclair Audi, Bridgend; runner-up with 114 points – Flat out Alloys; 3rd with 110 points – Rainbow International.

Nearest the pin on par 3 (four holes) – Dave McGill, Amy Watkins, Alan Kinevane, Neil Williams; men's longest drive – James Bater; nearest the pin in two on the 18th - David Williams, Llancadle. Correctly guessing 168 balls would fail to return home – Peter Francis, Pencoed.

Sadly no-one won the hole in one competition on the Par 3 holes - thanks to Oil Facilities Limited of Llandow for sponsoring this, and for Nathaniel's Car Sales in Bridgend for providing the car not won!

Sincere thanks to the many sponsors whose support was greatly appreciated.

Should you wish to help Julian in his target, then please go to: https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/juliankellybikeride2.

TM

Ladies' captain welcomes golfers to charity morning

THE Brynhill ladies' charity coffee morning on May 9 was a very successful day with well over 60 ladies entering the 10 hole golf competition.

After a few really bad days weather-wise, the ladies welcomed the sunshine - perfect golfing weather!

The ladies' captain, Liz Fine, nominated Wales Air Ambulance as her charity for her year of office. The money raised at the coffee morning will go to this very worthwhile cause.

The cake, bottle and book stalls were very popular along with the merchandise from the Wales Air Ambulance.

Liz thanked the catering and bar staff and thanks to those who helped, including Madeleine Williams - they all made the day a great success.

The ladies' captain thanked all the lady golfers who came from golf clubs across the Vale and beyond - Radyr, Porthcawl, Southerndown, Glamorganshire, Cottrell Park, St. Mary Hill, St Athan, Whitchurch and ladies from Newport.

Liz announced the winners and runners-up - home winner: Andrea Page - 20 points; home runner-up: Carole Allen - 15 points. Away winner: Shirley Lewis (Southerndown) - 19 points; away runner-up: Maureen Anderson (St Athan) -16 points. Longest drive - Shirley Morgan (Radyr); Nearest the pin - Carole Jones (St Athan).

JK

Tynewydd grabs second place in final day drama

TYNEWYDD FC went into their final game of the season knowing nothing more than a win would be good enough if they had any chance of finishing second this season, plus they needed to significantly increase their goal difference against Sully Sports.

The game finished 3-0 with smart finishes from both Lloyd Union and Ross Smith with a typical powerful header from Andrew Colburn also, with Tynewydd knowing they had missed plenty of chances that hopefully they wouldn't pay for!

Knowing their opponents Cadoxton Barry faced Sully in their final match of the season, Tynewydd had a goal difference advantage of plus seven, leaving Sully to make up eight goals minimum.

At half-time of that game, with Sully 5-0 up, Tynewydd's chances seemed bleak to say the least, but a second half rally by Cadoxton meant they won the half 3-2, with the match ending 7-3 to Sully, giving Tynewydd second place in Division One and promotion to the Premier League for the first time.

Having reached the last three successive Supporters Cup finals this was Tynewydd's best-ever league run, finishing second behind Cogan who Tynewydd actually beat at home and away this season.

They can take some solace from second place, albeit knowing that if they had scored a few more goals they could have actually have pushed Cogan even closer.

The league campaign was built around a solid defence, conceding just 22 goals in 22 league games, which speaks volumes of the back four and goalkeeper, and also the great team spirit, with no team having an easy game, with Tynewydd's never say die attitude producing countless late wins.

Moving into the Premier League won't be easy but as long as they can keep their team spirit and battling attitude they will give any team a game.

The team would like to give massive thanks to manager Gareth Union for once again leading a great bunch of players, all pulling together for the team's success, with special mention to coach Paul Union for getting the boys prepared for the games in training.

Squad: J.Shepherd, P.Pydanah, G.Pycroft, G.Osborne, J.Brana, J.Clissett (c), N.Haincock, D.Miller, M.McMarthy, A.Colburn, L.Union, G.Tinsley, Ll.Union, R.Smith, C.Marchant, G.Richards, J.Williams, C.Coleman, L.Peterson, G.Union, C.Harding, S.Eveleigh.

JC

Football camp at Gladstone

BLS Coaching will be running a half-term football camp at Gladstone Primary School from May 31-June 2, 9am-3pm.

For more information please call 07703515966, email blscoaching@gmail.com or find us on Twitter or Facebook.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
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Cowbridge's Isabel lands first winner!

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire hunt-racing season came to an end at rainsoaked Lower Machen on Saturday and on a personal note, I have to thank those kind and thoughtful enthusiasts who plotted, unknown to me, a special presentation held in honour of my 50 years of reporting on the Welsh point-to-point scene for the national and local press.

They even managed to get my wife Jacqueline, who was presented with a most beautiful bouquet of flowers by the legendary Tim Rooney, and family, to attend – without my knowledge, and it was a great thrill to be presented with a portrait of Mandryka, which I had one time dubbed 'The Welsh Wonder' by Mrs Shan Farr who, as Shan Morgan, had ridden him to success in 38 ladies' open races. For the record, Mandryka also won five men's open races and a Chepstow hunter chase.

The portrait which they had commissioned was by Carmarthenshire 's Miranda Bowen and when my race-reporting days are over it will be a constant reminder to me of the many friends I have made in Wales and beyond over the years.

It also gave me a thrill to report the first success of Isabel Williams, aged 18, in a handful of rides whowon the four-five and six-years old open maiden race on her father Evan's six-year-old grey gelding Tenant Farmer, trained by her mother Cath at Llancarfan in the Vale.

Not only did I have the pleasure of reporting on the many successes of Isabel's father, now the leading Welsh National Hunt trainer, between-the-flags, but also Isabel's late grandfather Rhys and grandmother Mary Evans, who was present to witness her grand-daughter's memorable moment.

Always in a handy position throughout, Tenant Farmer ran on strongly in the closing stages to score by 15 lengths from River Wye. "The race seemed to take ages and ages," said a delighted Isabel who could be in action again at this Saturday's North Hereford meeting.

Racing got under way with the Gelligaer Farmers hunt members, subscribers and farmers race which was won by Justin Hoskins' 10-year-old chestnut gelding Blazing Buck who was notching up his third win in a row.

Blazing Buck was ridden by Presteigne's Hannan Lewis who has ridden sheds of winners in Wales but never seems to qualify for any of the many awards that are presented each year.

Kuwait-born Hannah took up the running on the long-odds on favourite, who was judged to be the best turned out horse in the race, four fences from home to win by 30 lengths from Earth Tremor (Rhys Hughes).

Mr Hoskins said of the recent Flete four mile ladies' open race winner: "He's been working so well at home that we just had to give him another run."

Carmarthen National Hunt trainer Dai Rees won the confined race with his 12-year-old Macarthur who in 2008 had been a group two winner at Royal Ascot! Well ridden by Carmarthen's Charlotte Evans, Macarthur went to the front two fences from the finish to win by 10 lengths from Tiger Rag (Richard Patrick) with the favourite Captain Camelot (Tom David) a further six lengths back in third place.

A mud splattered Charlotte said: "He travelled really well throughout the race." Mr Rees joked: "This horse is nearly as old as you.

"He's been a pacemaker in Dubai and the hardest part is getting the saddle on him, as he is so full of himself."

Eight runners went to post for the mixed open race and Will Biddick's mount Posh Totty, who was bidding for a five-timer, was made favourite and when this eight-year-old chestnut mare struck the front four fences from home it looked as though backers might collect.

But it was not to be as the prolific Rosies Peacock (John Mathias) and Tony Star (James King) were never far away and in the closing stages had the race between them and jumping the last in front the French-bred Tony Star went on to win by 10 lengths from Rosies Peacock, with Posh Totty a further 12 lengths away in third place.

Tony Star, trained by Haverfordwest's Mickey Bowen, will now probably go back under rules with Mickey's father Peter Bowen.

National Champion rider Will Biddick, who was surprisingly paying a first visit to Lower Machen, chalked-up his 50th winner of the season when landing the restricted race on the Jack Barber-trained Athreeothree who after jumping the last fence alongside the pacemaking Mad Money (Richard Patrick) won by an easy one-and-a-half lengths.

The winner is by Presenting and at five-year-old was the youngest horse in the race and is owned by a syndicate who has been in partnership for 15 years.

Welsh champion rider John Mathias did not go home empty handed either as he won the seven-year-olds and over open maiden on Dai Rees' second winner of the day BackOfThe Rock which he owns in partnership with Paul Evans.

The 7-4 favourite, BackOfTheRock, had five lengths to spare over 20-1 outsider Red Rust, ridden by Conor Orr, and is trained by Mr Rees's partner Jane Jones.

Mr Evans said of his second winner of the day: "The horse has been in poor health and has had a wind operation but thankfully he's okay now and we might give him another run at Trecoed at the end of the season."

BRIAN LEE

Lloyd enjoys boost before the Blast!

DAVID LLOYD admits the Glamorgan squad needed a lift after their derby defeat by Gloucestershire in Bristol on Wednesday – so confirmation of the signing of South African superstar Dale Steyn to boost their NatWest T20 Blast squad could not have been better timed.

"I think the Blast is coming around at a good time for us," said the allrounder from north Wales, whose batting form has been a rare highlight of Glamorgan's start to the season as he followed a century against Kent with 99 in the first innings in Bristol.

"It's been a good start for me personally, but for the team it's been quite hard. The Blast gives us a chance to start from scratch in a totally different form of cricket."

Glamorgan open their Blast campaign in a televised game against Surrey at the Kia Oval next Thursday, when an attendance of more than 15,000 is already guaranteed, before their first home fixture at the SSE SWALEC on Sunday, June 1 against a star-studded Essex Eagles team including Wahab Riaz, Jesse Ryder and led by their newly-appointed one-day captain Ravi Bopara.

As a fellow former pupil of Shrewsbury School, David was stunned by the news that James Taylor will not play again because of a serious heart condition.

"I was lucky enough to get a scholarship for the sixth form, and the year I arrived James had just left," explained Lloyd, who was a contemporary of the Worcestershire and England Lions wicketkeeper batsman Joe Clarke at Shrewsbury.

"But he was still around quite a lot, especially working with our coach Paul Pridgeon. So we were in touch quite regularly and obviously I sent him a message when I heard the news – it was shocking really.

"Typical of James, when I got my hundred at Kent he sent me a message to congratulate me. I really appreciated that."

EDWARD BEVAN

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for May 23: 1st John Beard & Kevin Maddox 67.90%, 2nd Glyn Williams & Vida Halford 62.78%, 3rd Alan &Elaine Robins 56.77%.

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On and Off The Turf
with BRIAN LEE

THE latest 'Racehorses', the 69th in a series stretching back to 1947, has something for everyone whatever their angle on racing.

Look up any horse - there are 10,980 of them, each dealt with as a subject on its own - and you have an instant appreciation of its capabilities and the conditions it needs to live up to them.

The lavishly-illustrated 'Racehorses' runs to 1,216 pages and more than half a million words, indispensible for the new turf season and unbeatable value at £79 (post free in UK) – it is available from www.timeform.com or order by phone on 01422330540.

The extended essays in 'Racehorses' on the top horses are written to be entertaining and informative in equal measure,and are often wide-ranging in their scope.

Most of the topics covered are flaggged up in the book's introduction to help readers find their way around this bible of flat racing.

It does not confine itself to British racing as it covers hundreds of the best horses trained in Ireland and France, and also deals with many of the top international performers.

As for the whip, horses are different and react differently; it cannot be right to have to have rules that apply equally to a jockey riding a fully mature racehorse, perhaps with a lazy streak, and a jockey on an inexperienced and immature two-year-old, for example.

The rule should place more emphasis on incorrect use of the whip rather than how often it is used. The current numerical limit is at the heart of most of the problems.

The specifying of a limit often results in needless suspensions like the ones imposed on Andrea Atzeni and Frankie Dettori after the King George, which serve only to foster the false impression that racing has a welfare issue with the whip (the cushioned whip now in use encourages horses but does not hurt them.

'BLAST FROM THE PAST 1983' - HAMER'S BANWEN MINERS' DOUBLE

Paul Hamer, of Bridgend, landed a first and last race double at the Banwen Miners' Hunt Steeplechases.

Hamer took the Members' race on five-year-old *Anascend* and the second division of the Maiden on 10-year-old Flashtoun. Both horses are owned by former Welsh cross-country champion Bill Hancock.

St Athan farmer John Thomas partnered his grandfather's 12-year-old *Cottage Chest* to a five lengths win over the favourite *Flap* in the Adjacent race. Cottage Chest is owned by Welsh hunt-racing official Jack Thomas.

Million Dollar Man, ridden by top rider Sue Aston, and which once ran in the Derby, scored a one-length win over *National Clover* in the Ladies' Open Race.

Herbert Gibbons's *Quiz Master*, ridden by Tim Rooney, set a record when winning the Members' Race for the fifth time at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases.

Twelve-year-old *Quiz Master*, who missed last year's race because of injury, scored by four lengths from the fast finishing *Trucker*. Carl Pyne, from Tonypandy, made all the running on his father's *Lucy Avenue* to record his first success in the Adjacent event.

Cowbridge's John Llewellyn took the men's open race on the odds-on *Gemmerley Jane* which beat *Friday's Meadow* and Fitz and Mandy Lingard won the ladies' open race on the favourite National Clover.

Longest priced winner of the day was *Tudor Girl* which won the maiden race at 20-1 under Daryl Plummer.

Cynthia Higgon, a steward at the Banwen Miners Hunt *Point-To-Point*, saw her eight-year-old Ferreter win the first division of the maiden race on Saturday. Ferreter was ridden by Lydstep's Richard Mathias. Mrs Higgon is also the west Wales area secretary.

Million Dollar Man, who ran in the Derby six years ago, scored a length win over *National Clover* in the ladies' open race.

Reigning Welsh champion John Llewellyn looked to have the Point-To-Point Owners' Association club race well and truly won when going to the last fence clear on *Promoter*, but he took a tumble which left the way clear for the favourite *Ashburton*.

Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn landed a double at the Brecon Hunt Steeplechases.

He took *Gemmerley Jane* to a two-length win over ex-hurdler *If And When* in the second division of the men's open, and partnered *Matey* to an eight lengths victory over *Dance Master* in divison three of the restricted open.

In the ladies' open, odds-on favourite *National Clover* had four lengths to spare over the pacemaking *Little Trouble*. Brecon's Brian Eckley took the members' race on Glynn Valley and the maiden on *Loch Raven*.

Rose Harry's 17-year-old Fitz, a winner of 30 races, has been entered for the Gelligaer Farmers Steepelchases at Nelson on Saturday (Unfortunately, Fitz, trained at Dinas Powis, finished third behind Gemmerley Jane and Friday's Meadow).

LOCAL HORSE NORTHGEORGE IS A WINNER

An eight-year-old bay gelding called *Northgeorge*, owned by first time racehorse owner Steve Young, trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr and ridden by Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft has won the Subaru Restricted Championship.

Steve Young, head of a local medical supplies company, has given the first prize of the lease of a Subaru Forester 4WD car for a year to his jockey Byron Moorcroft who he said "... has done all the hard work".

Former leading point-to-point rider Jonathan Tudor said: "The horse has done us proud; he's had a busy season but is as tough as teak."

Northgeorge won on the opening day of the season (November 29) and had a further nine races and was a winner at the recent Llangeinor & Pentyrch Hunt Steeplechases.

FLINT'S CHEPSTOW WINNER

Bridgend trainer John Flint landed the DreamTeamFC.Com Handicap over a mile- and-a- half at his local track Chepstow last Saturday evening.

The course and distance winner, who at 10-years-old was the oldest horse in the race, won by one-and-a-half lengths from the five-year-old Insight and ridden by Daniel Muscatt went off the 3-1 favourite.

You can e-mail your point-to-point stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Dragon boat racing comes to the Vale

THE Rotary Club of Barry is delighted to announce that plans are well in hand for their new charity fundraising event – a 'Dragon Boat Race' – to take place on Saturday, May 28 (starting at 11am) in Cosmeston Park, thought to be the first Dragon Boat Regatta to be held in the Vale, to raise money for local charities.

Everyone is welcome to come along to watch or there is still time to register to join in the fun!

Racing involves rowers sitting side by side in long canoes with a helm to steer and a drummer sitting up front, beating out the rhythm!

Teams already registered to take part include 'Glenbrook Gladiators' and 'Redrock' from the Glenbrook Inn, 'Leisure Time' Cardiff travel company, Barry & District Spartans from B & D Scooter Club, and teams from the catering dept of Cardiff & Vale College, Barry Yacht Club Rowers, British Airways Maintenance, and a team from the town council. Organisers hope to have a full complement of 12 teams by race day.

Barry Rotary Club is grateful to KCS Transport of Aberthaw, Cater Leisure (Cosmeston café owners), Vale Aggregates, Dow Corning, and private sponsors for helping to make the event possible.

Anyone wishing to offer sponsorship or make a donation to support the event can follow the online link: *https://mydonate.bt.com/charity/search.html* and search for Barry Dragon Boat Festival.

Paul Halstead, president of Barry Rotary Club, said: "We already organise the annual Firework Fiesta on Barry Island and over its 35 year history have raised tens of thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

"We would like this event to develop in the same way so that it becomes a major date in the Vale's summer calendar."

This event is being professionally run with full safety support.

Money raised in sponsorship of the rowers will go 50 per cent to their team's chosen charity and 50 per ent to support the work of the Rotary movement.

To find out more about the Rotary Club's Dragon Boat event, go to *www.barrydragonboatfestival.co.uk* or call John Shapland on 07743426270 or email Robin Pitcher on robin.pitcher@talktalk.net or phone 02920 514051.

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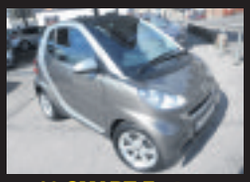

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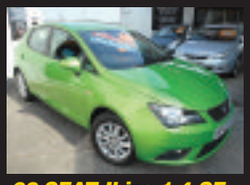

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11 SUZUKI Alto SZ3 1.0 5-Dr In red, 47,000 miles, low running costs, plus £20 road tax **£3,695**

09 FORD Ka 1.2 Style (New Shape) In silver, 51,000 miles, £30 road tax **£3,695**

07 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 Zinc 5-Dr Auto In met-silver, 65,000 miles **£3,695**

57 RENAULT Clio 2.0 Dynamique S In black, 63,000 miles with pan-roof, keyless-go etc **£3,295**

58 FIAT Grand Punto 1.4 Dynamic 3-Dr In met-blue, 63,000 miles, low running costs **£2,995**

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Wenvoe Castle GC hold mixed open

Members winners Alan and Fran Grant.

Members runners-up Joff Williams and Barbara Beedham.

Visitors' runners-up Dave Bryant and Sally Kudahl of St Pierre Golf Club.

BLUE skies and sunshine greeted the competitors in the mixed open at Wenvoe Castle recently.

The course was in superb condition and reflected the considerable efforts of head greenkeeper Mark Wilshire and his team, who were out early in the morning ensuring the presentation of the course, particularly the greens, was of the highest standard.

The high entry competed for prizes which were awarded to both visitors and Wenvoe Castle members, many of whom played particularly well given the possible influence of the captain's inaugural ball, which was held the previous evening.

An impressive score of 39 points by Ian Riley and Cath Robins from Dinas Powis Golf Club won the visitors' prize. Second place went to Dave Bryant and Sally Kudahl of St Pierre Golf Club with another good score of 36 points.

The Wenvoe Castle members' prize was a very close contest, with Alan and Fran Grant posting the winning score of 38 points.

Joff Williams and Barbara Beedham also scored 38 points and were just squeezed into second place by a countback on the final six holes.

In the ball sweep there was just a single two scored throughout the day and Sally Kudahl added to her winnings by scooping the pot of 30 balls.

Club captain Paul Coombs paid particular thanks to the visitors and club members who had supported the competition and made special mention of the contribution of the greenkeepers and the bar and catering staff who had worked tirelessly through the day.

Lady captain Sandra Hathway presented the prizes and also praised the work of the club staff and gave special thanks to Wendy Motton for her hard work and very efficient administration of the competition throughout the day.

There are still some spaces to enter a team in the captain's charity day on Saturday, May 28, and all proceeds are to the captain's nominated charity Cancer Research Wales.

For details please contact club secretary Nicola Sims on 02920 594371. **BJ**

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SPIDERS SPIN THEIR WEB TO CLAIM LEAGUE TITLE!

SEND Spiders have tangled the opposition in their web and triumphed in their first ever Vale Boccia League.

The league, run by Vale Council's Sport Development Department in partnership with a number of local organisations, was made up of boccia teams: the Boccia Rollers, Hengoleg Day Centre, Scope Sully Skills Development Centre, SEND and Woodlands Day Centre.

The teams competed against each other over 10 weeks with the SEND Spiders eventually coming out on top.

Following the league games, the top four progressed into semi-finals, with the winners playing in the final. It was contested between SEND Spiders and the Vale Boccia League stalwarts Boccia Rollers, with the SEND Spiders coming out on top despite a terrific comeback by the Rollers.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, attended the final to watch the matches and present medals and trophies, and said: "Congratulations to the SEND Spiders, on winning the Vale Boccia league.

"Sport should be accessible to all and my thanks are extended to all the volunteers who organise matches, provide transport and keep scores. Without them the league would not be possible."

The sad passing of two of the longest serving players in the Boccia League earlier this year inspired the creation of awards celebrating their past participation.

Scope Superstars won the Dean Evans Team Spirit Award for their outstanding attitude throughout the League and Abbie Kenshole won the Dilwyn Williams Individual Sportsmanship Award for her inspiring performances.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales development officer, said: "It's excellent to welcome new teams to the Boccia League with SEND Spiders and Scope Spiders having a very successful first year.

"All the teams performed admirably throughout the league with some excellent individual performances. The future for boccia in the Vale is looking very good."

Anyone interested in playing Boccia should contact Simon Jones on 01446 704728, or by emailing sljones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Local golfers enjoy club's anniversary!

Jon Holton, the men's winner.

Jordan Standing, junior winner.

Margaret Rees, ladies winner.

On May 14, 180 members enjoyed perfect golfing weather to celebrate Cottrell Park Golf Club's 20th anniversary.

Players were welcomed at registration, with on-course banners sponsored by the seniors.

The halfway house, spruced up by the juniors, enabled the ladies to serve refreshments to invigorate those playing well and encourage those in need of a boost.

Sponsorship by the resort and the men's section provided a free drink in the clubhouse after the round.

Major prizes provided by the resort management were: Men's - Jon Holton 40 points on countback; ladies - Margaret Rees, 38 points; junior - Jordan Standing 43 points. Runners-up - Chris Little, Adam Keenor.

Par-3 prizes were provided by Cottrell Park Members' Association: Nearest the pin - ladies: 4th, Helen Poole; men's: 15th, Jon Holton. Longest drive - 18th: ladies Helen Little; men's Jon Holton.

Target shot - 8th: Haydn Pike; Birdies - 12th: Tony Daly, Paul Driscoll, Neil Islam.

For more information, contact Gaynor Openshaw-Smith on 01446 781781 or email gaynor@cottrellpark.com.

Dale signs for Glamorgan CC

GLAMORGAN have concluded their search for a second overseas player by signing South African fast bowler Dale Steyn for a seven-match stint in the NatWest T20 Blast.

The 32 year old quick will arrive in Cardiff once his Indian Premier League commitments with Gujarat Lions are completed and he is scheduled to feature in home games against Essex Eagles, Hampshire, Kent Spitfires and Surrey at the SSE SWALEC stadium.

If the Lions make the final of the competition on Sunday, May 29, then Steyn will miss the Surrey fixture and face a race against time to take his place against Essex on Wednesday, June 1.

Steyn's international record includes 406 wickets in 82 Test appearances, 112 One-Day Internationals and 42 T20 Internationals.

Steyn's stay will be followed by the arrival of Shaun Tait who will spearhead the Glamorgan attack for the second half of the NatWest T20 Blast campaign.

Seven-match NatWest T20 Blast season tickets are now on sale with offers in place for the home games against Essex on Wednesday, June 1, and Hampshire on Friday, June 3 respectively.

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Cup success for Athletic youth!

NANTYFFYLLON came to Pyle RFC's ground expecting to win easily against a lower-placed Bridgend Athletic youth team in the Mid Glamorgan District cup final on Saturday, May 14.

They were in for a shock however. Nanty opened the scoring after only 10 minutes into the game, but, not to be outdone by this early setback, the Ath regrouped after Nanty failed to convert the try, playing hard and fast rugby and putting the Nanty defence under a lot of pressure.

They conceded a penalty and it was left to the trusty foot of Stuart Floyd-Ellis to score the Ath's first points.

Both sides were competing hard for possession of the ball, and the Ath conceded another penalty in front of their own posts, the Nanty No. 10 slotting the ball over to increase their lead to 3-8.

The Ath did not let their heads drop, but raised their standard of play with hard tackling and winning a lot of lineouts and scrums.

This paid off when the Ath were awarded another penalty on the halfway line and it was left to the on-form Floyd-Ellis to score another three points from an incredible distance. The Ath supporters were delighted and broke into rapturous applause.

Nanty knew then they had to pull all the stops out to keep the Ath at bay, and the game flowed end to end. The Ath's No. 9 Dan James picked up a loose ball from inside his own 22 and sprinted down the left to score an amazing try, outrunning several of Nanty's players in the process.

Floyd-Ellis attempted to convert from a difficult angle but failed on this attempt, the score 11-8 at half-time.

A half-time pep talk from coaches Lee Grabham and Stuart Morris, under the watchful eye of team manager Mark Phillips, seemed to work wonders in the second half and the whole team raised their game and soaked up all the pressure that Nanty threw at them.

Ten minutes before the end, the Ath had a player sinbinned and were now down to 14 men, being put under a lot more pressure from the Nanty team. But the Ath seemed to thrive on it and were determined not to lose their three point lead.

There was no more scoring and the Ath were victorious. Man of the match was awarded to the Ath's No. 9 Dan James.

A big thank you to all at Pyle RFC for the use of their ground and facilities, after the game refreshments, etc; we would also like to thank all ground staff and supporters for their support.

JC

Bridgend Bridge Club news round-up

THE results for recent events at Bridgend Bridge Club are:

Wednesday, May 18: First, Mike Close and Laura Woodruff; second, Dave Lea and Graham Norris; third Ray Smith and John Evans. The winners on handicap were Mike Close and Laura Woodruff.

Thursday, May 19: First, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett; second, Mike Williams and John Henson; third Geoff and Christine Tinkler. The winners on handicap were Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett.

Friday, May 20: First Dave Lee and Bill Turner; second, Emer Disley and Debbie Lea; third, Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill. The winners on handicap were Dian Jones and Pat Cogbill.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to begin at 7pm, so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall there is a gentle bridge session.

Master points are awarded, but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

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